

Hafa Adai!

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DPS: 2 alleged kidnap tries

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Police reports of two separate kidnapping attempts in Dandan—one at a private home and another near a bus stop—has prompted the Public School System to warn their children of “stranger danger.”

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said that PSS is encouraging parents to wait with their children, if possible, while they wait at bus stops and to warn children about the danger of talking to strangers.

Ada is asking parents, who

» **PSS encourages chaperones at bus stops**

have the time to wait, to chaperone their children as well as

See DPS on Page 4

Order to pay a security guard \$918K affirmed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has affirmed a ruling that Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. is liable to pay a security guard nearly a million dollars after he fell into a ditch on Mo-

bil Oil's premises in Lower Base, Saipan.

The high court ruled that the jurors in the case were given enough evidence in the form of expert testimony to calculate the damages awarded to Herman Indalecio, enabling

See ORDER on Page 4

'Govt spending out of control'

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The CNMI had a \$98-million deficit in fiscal year 2019, according to the report submitted to the Legislature by the Department of Finance.

About 63% of this is attributed to disaster-related expenditures, in the aftermath

» **Sablan: Spending exceeded revenue by \$98 million**

of Super Typhoon Yutu, with the rest divided among medical referrals, law enforcement, and other obligations.

Unpaid allotments also to-
See GOVT on Page 4

Time running out for canoe

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

There's good news and bad news about the traditional canoe that is intended to be shown at the Festival of the Pacific Arts in Hawaii this June.

The good news is that the canoe's base—which is usually used to hold supplies—is halfway done.

The bad news is that time is running out.
See TIME on Page 4

Grand master navigator Antonio “Tony” Pailug buffs the base of the canoe at the canoe house in Susupe last Jan. 15.

JUSTINE NAUTA



INSIDE



BUSINESS

The new year brings a new food delivery app on Saipan, Eats Easy.

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NATION

The U.S. House is set to vote to send the articles of impeachment to the Senate.

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ASIA

Taal Volcano in the Philippines spewed more lava into the sky and trembled constantly.

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Local

Ada: Suspect behind shooting threat is a student

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said Tuesday that the perpetrator of the recent

Kagman High School shooting threat is a student. Although investigation

remains ongoing for the threatening email that was sent about a shooting to the

KHS principal, Ada said in a short interview last Tuesday that the suspect is a student.

However, as part of Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Ada said no names or details about the student can be released.

The sad part is that the student, whose email the perpetrator used to send out the threat, is a good student and has no record of disciplinary concerns or actions under his belt, Ada said.

Saipan Tribune earlier quoted Ada as saying that the punishment for the transgression, if he or she is a student, includes possible expulsion.

Ada said the Public School System considered the email a Category 1 threat in terms of severity, one being the most severe. However, Ada added, the consequences also depend on whether it was a prank or had a deeper underlying issue.

KHS was placed on lockdown last Jan. 8 after the school's administration received an email threat about a shooting incident that will

happen at the school. The lockdown was lifted around noon.

According to a DPS statement, DPS received a 911 call from Kagman High School main office, reporting an email threat sent to the school. Police officers later met with Kagman High principal Leila Staffler, who briefed officers on the incident and showed officers that an email was sent to her school email address from a student's email address.

The principal met with the student who owned the email address and that student denied sending the email. Upon further investigation, it was found that the student was transitioning to another class at the time the email was sent. It is now believed that the student may have left his/her email account logged in at one of the school's computers and another student may have gone online using the logged-in account.

The school was later searched for weapons and, after finding nothing, the school was cleared at approximately 12pm.

MHS club donates books, cart to CHC

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The newly-formed Marianas High School Pre Med Club recently donated over 120 books to the Commonwealth Health Center's pediatrics unit as part of the club's outreach activities.

According to club president Catherine Byen, the club opted to donate a book cart as their first community outreach because it would greatly help the child patients at the pediatrics unit.

"A lot of children come to the pediatrics unit but they just stay there and they have no source of entertainment, so we thought it would be a great idea to donate some books that we have at the library so these books came from our school library, teachers, and students," she said.

Although all the books were donations, Byen said the club still fundraised to order a new



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Members of the Marianas High School Pre-Med Club pose for a photo with the book cart they donated to the Commonwealth Health Center last Monday.

book cart on Amazon.

By working with the hospital through donations, club members are exposed to doctors they could possibly shadow, she added.

"We want this to be an opportunity for other doctors to recognize us and whenever we reach out for students that want shadowing opportunities, they would accept our

students and have them participate," she said.

Renea Raho, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s director of Nursing, said the book donation is the first CHC has received from a group of students.

"We have had other donations in the past. This is the first time from this group of students. We will give these books to the patients. If they want to read them or if they want to take them home, we could do that too," she said.

Raho added that the pediatrics unit will share the books with the outpatient clinic so more children can read while they wait to be seen.

"From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to thank them for their donation. These books are precious and we really want the kids here to be exposed to reading instead of playing video games," she said.



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Skymark resumes normal direct flights to Saipan

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After cancelling its Saipan to Narita flight last Monday due to the eruption of Taal Volcano

in the Philippines, Skymark Airlines Inc. resumed normal direct flights operation yesterday.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for an update

on their flights, Skymark Airlines International Flight Preparation Office assistant general manager John Furuya said in an email that all flight were operating normally yesterday,

and that they are "very pleased to see all passengers happy and enjoying their trips."

Furuya said that Skymark Airlines took care of all affected passengers last Tues-

day, when the airline had two inbound flights and two outbound flights that day. The two extra (rescue) flights were intended for those passengers originally going out of Saipan Monday.

He said Tuesday's original flight went out at 4:37pm with 172 adults and two infant passengers, while the additional rescue flight left Saipan at 5:26pm with 93 adults and two infant passengers.

Furuya said the first and second flights arrived at Narita at 6:51pm and at 7:38pm, respectively.

"Both flights arrived earlier than the scheduled time of arrival," he said.

United Airlines also had an extra section scheduled yesterday between Guam and Manila to accommodate remaining affected passengers as a result of the volcanic eruption.

Taal Volcano, a small volcano in the Batangas province south of Manila, spewed ash and steam last Sunday. Fallen ash covered the runways at Manila's international airport Sunday night. All departing and arriving international and domestic flights were suspended "due to volcanic ash in the vicinity of the airport" and nearby air routes.

Taal lies around 60 kilometers (37 miles) south of Manila. **(With AP)**

'GOP call to ignore minority is tantamount to obstruction'

Not entertaining the concerns raised by the minority bloc in the Legislature constitutes obstruction, according to House minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) yesterday.

This was in response to the CNMI Republican Party's statement that "any suggestion of impeachment of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is simply political maneuvering" and that it "stands firm in its position that any petty attempt at further action by the minority will not be entertained."

"I was very disappointed with the fact that one of the statements in the press release was that the minority would be basically ignored, that anything, any concerns or anything that we brought up, that the GOP would basically not entertain. That in of itself is obstruction. They cannot say that," Propst said.

"Whether we are in the minority, or in the majority, we all got fairly elected to represent our people. We all have a voice and every one of us has

a seat at the table. For the GOP to deny us that is extremely, extremely insulting. Not so much to us, but to the people who actually support us and actually care about transparency, accountability, and integrity in office," Propst added.

In December last year, the House minority bloc asked House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) to form a special committee to investigate allegations of public corruption, fraud, waste, and abuse of public funds by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. They also made an Open Government Act request with the Department of Finance for access to records on the governor's travels and requests for reimbursements, among others.

"It is, of course, sad right now that we are having to investigate what is going on right now, but it is part of our duties and responsibilities as legislators. The public expects us to do this. We can't just ignore what has been given to

us," said Propst yesterday.

He said the minority lawmakers have all been patient as far as their OGA request is concerned. "Finance has asked for an extension to get all of these records, which is quite voluminous, it's huge. We have given that, we haven't argued against that, because

we do know that it's a lot for us to all look into, just as it is for the Department of Finance to gather."

Acknowledging that such an investigation could take time, Propst wants to assure the public that the minority, as a team, is ready to do whatever it takes to ensure that everything will be covered in the investigation. **(Iva Maurin)**

Investing in Tanapag's youth

As recreational sports facilities in Precinct 4 get much-needed facelifts, another—this time for the benefit of the community's youth—is getting attention: the Tanapag Youth Center.

Revitalizing the center so it could offer programs and after-school activities for the youth in Tanapag is one of Rep. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan)'s priorities for the year.

"The Tanapag Youth Center is a physical space where we are investing in our youth," Babauta said. "[With the center, the youth] are able to build and strengthen relationships, get help with homework, learn life skills, and just have another fun, safe space to hang out."

The center was adopted by the legislator's office through a partnership with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services.

"Partnerships are important," Babauta said. "We've partnered with Kagman High School Seniors, Team Angels (Tanapag), and Team RIS (San Roque) to help with service projects in the community and volunteer hours at the youth center," she said.

An average of 25 to 30 students go to the center every day to gain access to services from partners such as books donated by the Joeten-Kiyu Pubic Library, sports equipment donated by the CNMI

Youth Affairs, and even free flu, MMR, and anti-pneumonia shots from the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s Immunization Program.

Babauta also devised a way for members of the community to give back through the youth center. Every sports team her office sponsors are asked to donate some time back to the center, where they could volunteer and teach children about what they are doing.

Creating partnerships in the community like that is important so that the children could see that the community cares, she said.

"I'd love to build youth centers all over our island, but we must be realistic with available resources and utilize existing structures until such goals can be achieved," Babauta added.

For the meantime, Babauta is calling on everyone to get involved and volunteer. "We are always looking for volunteers to help at the Tanapag Youth Center and our kids appreciate the time you spend with them. If you're an organization or business, donate. We are always accepting donations, from computers to your time. We are grateful for whatever you can give."

To volunteer, donate, or for more information about the Tanapag Youth Center, contact 664-2599 or 285-7921. **(Iva Maurin)**

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Donations sought for PH volcano victims

The United Filipino Organization is offering its services to anyone who wants to donate money for the people who are affected by last Sunday's eruption of Taal Volcano in the Philippines.

"We're trying to collect money first, so we can send the cash there or have one of the officers from UFO go to the Philippines and buy the goods to distribute to the people in need," said UFO president Marcelo Masilungan.

According to him, some people have already donated to UFO and other who are also trying to reach out with donations. He hopes to collect as much money as they can by next week Friday Jan. 24.

If you want to donate cash, visit the



Masilungan

Supertech Saipan office in Garapan across Quick Print. If anyone wants to give a check, make sure to make it payable to the United Filipino Organization and turn it over to Supertech Saipan.

"I think that a little goes a long way, whether you want to donate 50 cents or \$1. Every single penny counts. We can help a lot of families in that area," said Masilungan.

UFO is the umbrella organization of Filipino groups on Saipan.

For more information, call Masilungan at (670) 483-9440, UFO vice president Tyrone Garon at (670) 484-0981, UFO secretary Birhen Martinez at (670) 483-0915, or UFO treasurer Ladyvir Canape at (670)989-2545). (*Justine Nauta*)

GOVT

From Page 1

taled \$9,297,472, with a majority of it, \$4.9 million, owed the Marianas Visitors Authority, \$2.8 million owed the Commonwealth Health Care Corp./Division of Public Health, and \$1.2 million owed the Northern Marianas College.

According to Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), the House minority bloc has requested for a detailed breakdown of the over-expenditures.

"We did see there's a spreadsheet attached to the [Finance] secretary's report that indicates which agencies were spending well beyond what was budgeted but we need a lot more detail," Sablan said. "We also need more details about the disaster-related expenditures and how much of that are we getting reimbursed for, and how much of that is the CNMI share and how much of that is for things like illegal overtime that we will not get reimbursed for. People deserve to know that as well."

The minority has also called for financial oversight, citing that they have been raising the alarms early on in the year on the austerity measures imposed on the CNMI government, despite having no clear picture of the true state of the government's finances.

"Now, here we are, at the beginning of this new fiscal year, and we know that spending was out of control and that our projections were off," Sablan added. "The next step is getting more information from Finance when our Ways and Means chairman comes back. I'm hoping that we can have a meeting with the [Finance] secretary and with the Office of Management and Budget, and really get to the bottom of where we went wrong and where we go from here."

Overspending

Every year, the Finance secretary is required to report to the governor and the Legislature the overall picture of expenditures versus revenue collections for that year.

"We looked at the reports for the last three years—2017, 2018, and 2019—and what we found, according to the reports from the Department of Finance, is that the CNMI

government has consistently overspent and more than that, tripled the overspending from year to year," Sablan said.

"From 2017, the government overspent more than \$8 million. We spent more than we collected. In 2018, we spent more than \$26 million—overspent by \$26 million, and then in 2019, according to the report that was released on Dec. 31, we overspent by \$98 million."

That means the CNMI is in violation of the Constitution, which mandates that the deficit be retired the following year, Sablan added.

"If there's a deficit one year, we need to retire the deficit in the second year," she explained. "That hasn't happened in the history of the Commonwealth as far as I know, but what we know for sure is that we are in violation of that and try to rein in spending."

Commonwealth Constitution Article 10 (Taxation and Public Finance), Section 6, states that if an operating deficit is incurred in the fiscal year, the government shall retire the deficit the following year.

Enforce 'enforcement'

There should be realistic projections of what the revenue collections will be, and a realistic understanding of what could be afforded in terms of government operations and providing services, Sablan said.

"There's a lot of talk about generating revenue. That's the majority's objective at this point. All of these revenue-generating bills, which tends to mean higher taxes, higher fees. We, in the minority, want to see better enforcement," Sablan said.

"What we are pushing for is a government that can live within its means, and that it carries out the laws and collects taxes so that services can be provided and we're not wasting any money."

The legislator added that there is a need to support agencies that have to actually carry out enforcement, such as the Department of Finance.

"These are, in some ways, very structural issues. These are problems with the system. But at the end of the day, we are talking about mismanagement. We're talking about public funds being misspent and overspent."

TIME

From Page 1

ning out on the canoe, with only a little over five months left for it to be done in time for the FestPac. The two men who are currently working on the canoe at the canoe house in Susupe—grand master navigator Antonio "Tony" Urmeyang Pailug and John Castro, project coordinator of the seafaring tradition program of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs—are hopeful but they themselves have doubts, that the remaining five months may not be enough time for them to finish making the canoe in time. The two have been working on making the canoe since October 2018 in Susupe.

When finished, the canoe would be

approximately 34 feet long. Right now, the base is the only thing that is almost finished. Pailug and Castro have their work cut out for them since they are the only two working on the canoe and if they want to meet the deadline of testing the canoe to see if it's ready to sail. As for when it will be done, that is still a big question mark.

The traditional canoe will be made out of *dokduk*—breadfruit tree—that was harvested from Rota and the sail will be made out of a nylon canvas fabric.

Plans to sail the canoe from here to Hawaii is "impossible," since the storage space of the canoe will only be able to hold a week's worth of food supplies and that won't be enough for a trip that is estimated to take three months of sailing. If the idea is to sail to Hawaii to make it to the FestPac,

they should have started sailing yesterday, according to both Pailug and Castro. Shipping the canoe to Hawaii to showcase it at FestPac 2020 seems more doable.

The traditional canoe has been in the works since 2017 and should have been almost finished but, due to multiple storms, parts that were needed weren't available after Super Typhoon Yutu hit in October 2019.

"It would be the most honorable thing to have a maiden voyage to the island of Rota to present to the *animās* [ancestral spirits] what we made out of what we took from them," said Castro.

"We're connected by the water, the important thing is to show the people that this [sailing] is what our ancestors used to do when they needed to go [from] island to island," said Pailug.

DPS

From Page 1

the other children while waiting for the bus to arrive at bus stops.

In the past month, two attempted kidnappings were reported in the village of Dandan: one near a bus stop and another at a private home. The Department of Public Safety is looking at a possible relation between the two reports as the suspect in both cases reportedly drives a silver/gray sedan.

The suspect driving the sedan is described as having dark hair and speaks good English. The vehicle is described as a gray sedan with dark tint and scratches on its side.

The most recent instance was last Sunday at around 5:54pm, when police received a call reporting an attempted kidnapping at a private residence in Dandan.

Police arrived at the home some three minutes later and met with the

victim's mother, who reported the incident.

The victim, a female juvenile, told police that she was washing her hands at an outdoor spigot, when an unfamiliar, silver-colored sedan pulled into her property, with a man who called out to her to come to him.

The male suspect told the victim that he was there "to drop something for your mom" but, as soon as the driver attempted to step out of the vehicle, the victim ran inside the home and told an older cousin, who called the victim's mother.

The other incident was reported last Jan. 10 at around 6pm. DPS received a call reporting an attempted kidnapping incident near a school bus stop in Dandan.

Police met with the caller, a juvenile, who stated that they wanted to report an unusual incident that occurred earlier in the day as they were waiting at their bus stop.

The victim told police that a gray-colored sedan (no make or

model reported), pulled up near the bus stop and parked along the shoulder of the road. The suspect in the vehicle then rolled down the passenger-side window slightly and asked a female juvenile to follow him to Garapan.

Both cases remain under investigation. However, DPS would like to remind the public and parents to be aware of the incident, and to speak with children about the dangers of strangers asking unusual questions, especially when there are no familiar adults around.

The most notorious incident of a disappearance in the CNMI also occurred near a public school bus shelter in As Teo, when sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk disappeared on May 25, 2011. The sisters' house is located just a few meters from the school bus shelter. Faloma and Maleina were 10 and 9 years old, respectively, at the time of their disappearance. The case remains unsolved.

ORDER

From Page 1

them to reduce future damages to present value.

The high court's decision was penned by Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and concurred by associate justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos.

The justices said Dr. Grant E. Walker, an orthopedic surgeon, stated that his report made sense, that his findings were consistent with a life care planner's role, and that there was no inconsistency between his treatment plan and that of Doris J. Shriver's, Indalecio's life care planning expert, vocational expert, and occupational therapy expert who testified on Indalecio's life care plan and the accompanying costs.

The justices said Shriver's testimony remained within the bounds of the trial court's finding that her expertise did not extend so far as to give medical diagnoses.

The justices said Shriver relied on physician's reports in assessing the probable future needs of a patient to comport with her role as a life care planner, and her reports were approved by a physician. The justices said Walker explicitly af-

firmed as much.

The justices said they find Shriver did not exceed the scope of her testimony and that Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja did not abuse his discretion in admitting Shriver's testimony.

In his lawsuit, Indalecio, through counsel Victorino DLG Torres, asked the court to hold Mobil Oil liable to pay him damages for medical care and expenses, for pain and suffering, emotional distress, mental anguish, and diminished quality of life. The Superior Court awarded Indalecio a total of \$918,929.

According to the lawsuit, Indalecio fell into a ditch at Mobil Oil's premises in Lower Base on Dec. 23, 2013. Torres said that Mobil knew or should have known the dangerous condition of the ditch, and should have realized that it creates an unreasonable risk of harm to others.

Mobil Oil counsel Thomas E. Clifford pointed out that Mobil's terminal in Lower Base is a highly regulated by various federal and local agencies.

Clifford said the evidence will show that Indalecio got hurt because he did not take his duty as a security guard responsibly by not following the designated route patrol on the premises.

Clifford said Indalecio was not faking his injuries, but was exag-

gerating.

The trial began last June 28, 2016. Naraja presided over the trial.

On July 14, 2016, the jury reached a verdict finding Mobil Oil liable to pay \$1.3 million in damages.

The nine jurors awarded Indalecio \$681,000 in economic damages and \$600,000 in non-economic damages, for a total of \$1,281,000.

Naraja, however, reduced the non-economic damages to \$300,000, for a total award of \$981,000.

Naraja subsequently reduced damages by \$62,071, for a total of \$918,928.

The jurors found that Mobil Oil did permit Indalecio to use the area of the premises where he was injured.

The jurors also found that Mobil Oil was negligent and that its negligence was a factual cause of Indalecio's harm. The jurors did not find Indalecio negligent.

Mobil appealed to the Supreme Court. It argued that there was insufficient evidence to compute the reduction of future medical costs to present cash value.

Mobil argued that Naraja abused his discretion in admitting a certified public accountant as an expert witness, and in permitting a life care planner's testimony to exceed the scope of her expertise in enumerating medical costs in a life care plan.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be spending \$4.5

million to study how to fortify the Marianas against future storms like Super Typhoon

Ex-IPI guest host to drop her suit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and a former VIP services host who sued IPI over alleged non-payment of overtime compensation, among other allegations, have agreed to have the case dismissed.

IPI, though counsel Kelley M. Butcher, and Shirline Loh, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI Tuesday to dismiss the lawsuit with prejudice. That means Loh can no longer re-file the case.

Each party shall bear their own costs and fees, including attorney's fees.

Butcher and Fitzgerald told the court last Dec. 12 that both parties in the case have agreed to settle and that they would be asking the court to dismiss it once all documentations are completed.

They did not indicate whether they are going to file in court a copy of their settlement contract.

Loh, a citizen of Singapore, sued IPI for Fair Labor Standards Act violation—unpaid minimum wage and unpaid overtime compensation and conversion.

In her lawsuit, Loh asked the court hold IPI liable to pay her

DigitalSaipan launches IslandRide this Friday

DigitalSaipan would be launching the IslandRide rideshare application on Friday, Jan. 17, at the Saipan World Resort, officially unveiling the ridesharing app and sharing it with the public, as well as teaching Saipan the basics of its use.

Other DigitalSaipan projects that are in the pipeline would also be unveiled at the event.

"While DigitalSaipan has seen an intense amount of interest and patience in waiting for the final launch of this exciting product we are sure some patience has waned. We want to let the potential drivers and passengers know that their need for patience is almost over. We also hope to inspire new interest in this exciting product throughout our wonderful island," DigitalSaipan said in a statement.

If you are interested in Driving either attend the event, use the website at www.digital-saipan.com to apply or call 670-287-9758.

The application will be available on both iOS and Android platforms though both the Google Play Store and Apples App Store on Jan. 17 at 9am. (PR)

the applicable minimum wage and overtime compensation for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in each work week.

Loh sought payment for her shares of tips designated for the VIP hosts and allegedly wrongfully converted by IPI for its own use.

She also demanded payment for liquidated and punitive damages, attorneys' fees, and court costs.

Loh began her employment with IPI on Oct. 15, 2015 and worked for it until August 2016.

In IPI's answer to Loh's amended lawsuit, Butcher said the company acted in good faith all times and had reasonable grounds for believing its actions were in compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Butcher said Loh cannot recover against IPI to the extent that she failed to mitigate her alleged damages.

Butcher said IPI has not engaged in intentional unlawful employment practices with respect to Loh, and that IPI cannot be liable for punitive/liquidated damages.

The lawyer said Loh was compensated for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in a particular workweek at a rate not less than that set forth by the overtime provisions of the FLSA.

She said Loh failed to exhaust administrative remedies before filing the lawsuit.

'\$4.5M disaster studies open door to \$740M funding'

Yutu, said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday. That, in turn, will give the Marianas access to \$740 million in construction funds that the U.S. Congress had allocated to storm-hit areas in last year's disaster recovery act, Public Law 116-20.

It was also Congress that first made the \$4.5 million available to areas hit by Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Tropical Storm Gita, Typhoon Mangkhut, and Yutu, to fund

studies that would make recommendations on how to build more resiliently.

"This is more good news from the recovery act," Sablan said. "We worked very hard to make sure the Marianas was eligible for the many federal programs in that law—not only to help us rebuild, but also to protect our islands from future disasters."

Three million dollars of the study funds will be used for engineering recommen-

dations for the protection of Beach Road on Saipan. The thoroughfare is vitally important to business and residents in day-to-day life and connects many of the island's traditional village areas. The scenic drive along Saipan's lagoon is also a key resource of the tourist economy. Yet the roadway's proximity to the ocean makes it vulnerable to storm waves and erosion as sea-level rises.

One and half million dol-

lars will be used for a broader watershed assessment. Army Corps officials said they would be studying past storms, identifying what causes the most damage (wind, flooding, etc.), and looking at what kind of infrastructure could reduce risks. This could include flood management and waste water systems, as well as protecting water supplies.

Congress mandated the assessment work be completed within 30 months. (PR)

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Korean students practice their language skills

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twelve students from different schools in South Korea are visiting Saipan for a month-long English program that would not only immerse them in the English language but would also allow for an exchange of culture, perspective, and knowledge.

The students are from different provinces in South Korea, but came to Saipan under the WOW English Camp being coordinated by Costa Tour for the purpose of learning English, participate in school activities, and more. The group is accompanied by two guardians.

The students had a chance to practice their English speaking skills yesterday via a courtesy call at the Saipan Mayor's Office, with Mayor David M. Apatang himself



JUSTINE NAUTA
Students with the WOW English camp pose with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, tour organizers, and chaperones last Tuesday at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

their meanings.

At the end, the students were each given certificates "for helping us take care of the environment." The students will be taking part in a cleanup at the Chalan Kanoa Beach.

"It's also nice to see the kids come and enjoy themselves and I hope that they do come back with their parents," added Apatang.

The Saipan Mayor's Office works with different groups to improve the relationship between the CNMI and its tourism markets like China and South Korea by promoting exchange programs like this.

meeting with the students, during which they got to ask him some questions and they, in turn, were also asked some questions.

Among the many questions that Apatang responded to was, "What does it take to become mayor?" Apatang replied, "Finish school, go to college,

and then you can become a good politician. If you want to be a mayor, you can do it."

When asked if he has a good relationship with Korea,

Apatang replied: "Of course, we love the people of Korea."

Apatang also told the students about what is on the Commonwealth flag and

Rotary welcomes 2 new members

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan inducted two new members into its ranks last Jan. 14 during the club's regular Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's restaurant.

The new members are Marvin Deleon Guerrero, who is assistant vice president and branch manager at Bank Pacific, and Hiroko Stewart, who used to work for Dow Chemical.

President-elect Sonya Dancoe, who will take over the Rotary Club of Saipan next year, helped affix club-spe-

cific pins on the new members' lapels to acknowledge them as official members.

Stewart, who just retired after 30 years with Dow Chemical, said she looks forward to being a Rotary member and the chance to help with the club's international campaign against polio and providing clean water in other countries.

"After 30 years of working, this is a great time to join the club so that I can shift my focus on the community," said Stewart.



Stewart



DeLeon Guerrero

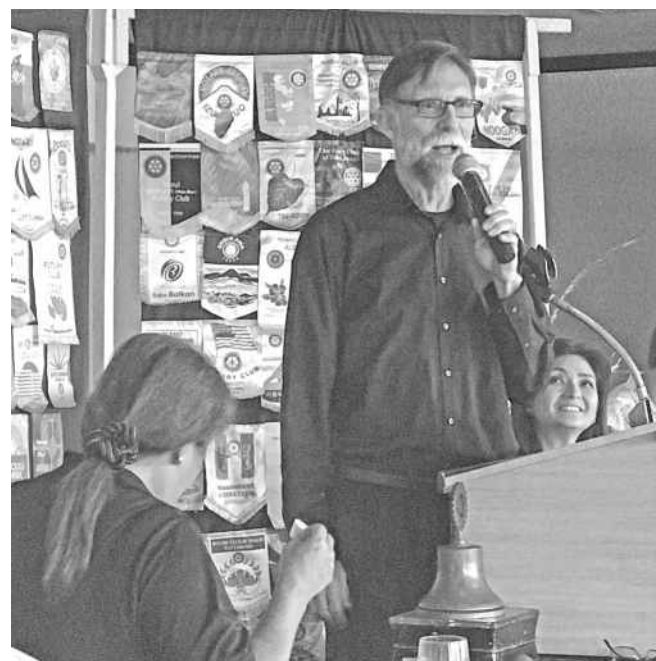
Deleon Guerrero, on the other hand, thanked Rotary Club of Saipan president Maricia Ayuyu and Rotary Club of Saipan officers for their warm welcome and for making his membership official.

"It's such an honor to be a member of this prestigious

organization," said Deleon Guerrero. "I look forward to further networking with other business professionals."

Deleon Guerrero has been with Bank Pacific for three years now but has been in the banking industry for four years. He's also a musician outside of his day job.

The Rotary Club of Saipan also had two guest speakers last Tuesday: Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez and Dave Bucher, a teacher at Kagman High School.



JUSTINE NAUTA
Dave Bucher talks about potential exchange program with Juno, Alaska, and Saipan at the Rotary Club of Saipan's regular Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's restaurant.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-008

SUBMISSION DATE: February 18, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Proposed Demolition of Existing Social Hall Building at Chalan Kanoa District No. 3, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **February 5, 2020, 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Project site, Chalan Kanoa District No. 3, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 11, 2020** to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Lions Clubs meet 2020 in 'Great Gatsby' style

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lions Clubs International District 204, Region 2, along with 110 of its members and guests, met the year 2020 with a Great Gatsby-themed party at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan last Jan. 4.

Region 2 chair Annamae Adaza said the event was intended to show the club's appreciation to all members for a whole year of doing volunteer work and giving back to the community.

For this new year, the Lions Club International District 204 is looking forward to the District Convention with members from Guam and the Philippines at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan on March 14 and 15. This will be followed by their annual health fair at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall on March 29.

Region 2 is composed of six



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members and guests of the different Lions Clubs in the CNMI met the year 2020 with a Great Gatsby-themed party at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan last Jan. 4.

clubs: Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club with president Eden Mercado; Saipan Unity LC with president Elizabeth Escobar; Saipan Marianas LC with president Ladyvir Canape; Saipan Alliance LC with president Danny Robles; Saipan Natibu

LC with president Manny Castro; and Saipan Centennial LC with president Arceli Lizama.

If you want to join the Lions clubs, contact second vice-district governor Atoy Banting (670) 483-2869, Adaza at (670) 285-4388, Region 2

Zone 1 chair Al Cabael (670) 483-4663, Region 2 Zone 2 chair Argie Buensalido (670) 483-4512, or assistant cabinet secretary Bhiya Canadalla (670) 285-6899. Visit the website for more details at www.lionsclubs.org.

Robotics training a first for Kosrae students

KOSRAE, Federated States of Micronesia—High school students on the tiny Micronesian island of Kosrae are teaming up with experts to get hands-on experience with technologies of the future. Equipped with the latest in competitive robotics equipment, new robotics clubs at Kosrae High School are enjoying a mix of classroom instruction and hands-on learning, exploring math and science concepts that run much of the modern world.

For many students across the Freely Associated States—the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and Marshall

Islands—access to advanced STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) instruction is extremely limited. The Habele Robo League provides a unique vehicle to Micronesian high schools looking to expand the technical preparedness of students. Kosrae recently joined the other three FSM states participating in the Robo League, thanks to Habele's partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. FSM Vice President Yosiwo George has been an outspoken supporter of expanding the Robo League to include students in

his home state.

Building on the momentum of this training, clubs at Kosrae High School will press forward toward the island's first ever Kosrae Robo Day. Robo Day is the culmination of a school year of robotics exploration, in which clubs build customized robots to compete in a series of predetermined challenges during a community exhibition. Across participating FSM states, these competitions provide students a venue for robust, friendly competition, as well as giving the community the opportunity to see learning come to life. "The students are really



Robotics Club members at Kosrae High School undergo training.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

diving into the challenge of making modifications and improvements, designing for the tasks at hand, making the

project their own, and working very well together," says Amelia Weiss, Habele's director of STEM. "I just can't wait to see what they come up with."

The Habele Robotics League has collaborated with public and private schools across the FSM since 2012, beginning in Yap, expanding to Chuuk and Pohnpei in 2018, and finally to Kosrae

in 2019. In addition to the Robotics League, Habele provides tuition scholarships for students across the FSM, and provisions public school libraries.

Established by former U.S. Peace Corps volunteers, Habele is a U.S.-based nonprofit, advancing educational access and accomplishment in Micronesian communities. (PR)

Dangerous rip currents until Saturday

There is a high risk of dangerous rip currents along east facing reefs of the CNMI until Saturday night. These rip currents will be life-threatening.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations

Center State Warning Point, an east swell will generate strong rip currents along east facing reefs through Saturday night on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The public is advised to avoid venturing near the reef line, especially along east facing reefs. Stay out of the water. (Saipan Tribune)



Team members of the Robotics Club at Kosrae High School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-20-009

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) Original and Six (6) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-20-009, Workers' Compensation & Administration", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than February 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 31, 2020** to **Manny B. Sablan**, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to **Vivian Santos**, CUC Human Resource Manager, via email vivian.santos@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLON
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE

2020 CCA Board of Directors & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting the community, cancer survivors, friends, and supporters to its annual general membership meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 5:30 PM at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai.

The agenda will include the president's 2019 annual report as well as the treasurer's financial report. Immediately after the representations, election of three (3) board members will commence. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance via email and/or on the floor.

To submit a board nomination, or for more information please contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com

DLNR to tow away boats from Outer Cove Marina

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

By the end of January, boats without power/engines will be removed from the Outer Cove Marina. By the following month, on Feb. 27, boats without berthing permits will also be removed.

That has prompted some complaints from boat owners, particularly with the

berthing permit they need to apply for and the three-month security deposit they need to pay. In an email message to *Saipan Tribune*, one boat owner appealed to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources for "reasonable regulations."

"The viewpoint of helpless boat owners [is that] their policy is inconsistent. If they [are] asking [for a]

reasonable requirement, boat owners may try follow it. But they don't. Especially this time, [the] tour market [is] going to shrink, so we need more reasonable regulations," the email reads.

The boat owner also complained about loading fee that DLNR is charging boat owners at the Smiling Cove Marina, pointing out that there are no loading fees at the Submarine Dock (Tasi Pier in Tanapag) and at the Garapan Fishing Base, and that they only need to pay \$1 per tourist at Charlie Dock (Commonwealth Ports Authority).

Enforcement

DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente explained that the collection of the fees is based on regulations that have been in place since 1999, which DLNR is required to enforce. That regulation only put on hold in 2015, in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor, he said. At that time, engineers of the Department of Public Works already deemed the Outer Cove Marina unsafe.

"The [Office of the] Attorney General and the [Office of the] Public Auditor have been bombarding our office, saying [we] have an obligation to do, the responsibility of complying [with] the law,

the regulation, which I have to do," Benavente said.

He added that both the attorney general and the public auditor want commercial activities out of Outer Cove since it is unsafe, yet boat owners still want to continue and stay.

"We can't say, 'You can just stay,' and nothing happens. You have to also pay for it," Benavente said. "They [boat operators] say the structures are unsafe. The structure is unsafe and [yet] everyday, you're still [doing] sunset cruise, boat tours to Managaha on a daily basis, and you are making money every day and nothing for the government. This is not right."

As for the fees, boat owners would have to pay a monthly Vessels Berthing Fee that range from \$5 to \$20 per foot, depending on the length of the boat; a \$4 per passenger boarding fee; and a security deposit the cost of a three-month berthing fee.

"We're just telling these people that the purpose of this is because of your commercial activity. So you have to pay these fees, the birthing, the security deposit, because you've been there."

DLNR would not retroactively collect the fees from 2015 but would start from this period.

"We're not dealing with what the past is. We want to go forward and effectively start this on the new fiscal year, which is Oct. 1, 2019. ...We would implement this regulation and move forward from whatever the past is," the secretary added.

What's next?

With the DLNR obligated to comply with the regulations, the boat owners are also expected to follow suit.

"Considering that obligation, I have to follow this regulation, at all means, to ensure that this is complied [with]," Benavente said. "If they don't want to follow, and they feel that it's not right, then [the vessels] have to leave the Outer Cove."

"We're enforcing the regulation. We want them to know that we will abide with this regulation, if they don't comply, they have to move out of there. Our responsibility is to

[ensure] safety to our tourists, and we feel that we need to bring them to another location where they can load and offload the tourists, the customers."

In October last year, the transient dock at the Smiling Cove Marina has been used to safely load and unload passengers going to Managaha, in lieu of the Outer Cove Marina. The secretary clarified that the money that is being collected is separate from the general fund and will be deposited into an account for the Outer Cove.

Based on estimates by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it would take more than \$16 million to fix the Outer Cover Marina.

DLNR said that they have come into an agreement that if the boat owners want to stay at the Outer Cove Marina, then they have to abide with the regulations even if it's still an unsafe structure.

Man arrested for alleged stalking

On Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020, at around 10:40am, two women walked into the CNMI Department of Public Safety to file a complaint of stalking at a home in southern Garapan along Beach Road, Saipan.

The victim stated that she had seen a male individual roaming outside her home on several occasions. Worried for her safety, the victim installed security cameras around her home. One day after work, the victim reviewed the security footage, and saw the male individual take one of her undergarments from a clothesline.

On Friday, Jan. 10, 2020,

police met with the suspect, who admitted to taking the victims undergarment from the clothesline sometime on



Gaviola

Jan. 6, 2020. Police arrested Renato P. Gaviola, and transported him to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained. Following his arrest, a Rule 5 Declaration was processed and signed by Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on Jan. 11, 2020, at about 11:15am, with bail set at \$5,000. The document was served to Gaviola at 11:53am.

This case remains ongoing. (PR)

Rota and Tinian courts closed today

The Kotten Tinian on San Jose, Tinian and Centron Hustisia on Sinapalo, Rota will be closed today, Jan. 16, 2020, due to the Judiciary's Language Access Program Training. Normal business hours will resume on Friday, Jan. 17, 2020. For additional information or assistance,

contact Gretchen M. Smith, CNMI Supreme Court Clerk of Court, at (670) 236-9715 or via email at gretchen.smith@nmijudiciary.com. or Patrick V. Diaz, CNMI Superior Court Clerk of Court, at (670) 235-5248 or via email at patrick.diaz@nmijudiciary.com. (PR)



Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: January 16, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the United States Department of the Navy regarding the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)

More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the following website:
https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2019_DEC_13_U_N465_1492_CNMI-DCRM-trn-ltr-16-DEC-19-TO-MS.-REYES.pdf and
https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2019_DEC_10_U_N465_1467_ENCL-TO_CNMI-DCRM-trn-ltr-10-DEC-19.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan. Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for thirty (30) days, comment period began on January 7, 2020 and will end on February 7, 2020. This comment period has been extended to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.



Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

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Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: January 16, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) regarding the proposed fisheries and ecosystem research throughout the Pacific Region. The purpose of the research activities is to improve our understanding of ocean ecosystems and support NOAA's mission of science, service and stewardship.

For more information about the project, please proceed to the following link:
https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/PEA_CZMAConsult-CNMI.pdf and
<https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/PIFSC-Public-Draft-PEA-2019edition.pdf>

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally-approved coastal management plan. Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on January 15, 2020 and ending on January 29, 2020. We look forward to your input.

Yale law students to learn about US territories

Ask most attorneys whether they learned anything about Guam or other U.S. territories in law school, and all you are likely to get back is a blank stare.

That is starting to change, though, as former Guam resident Neil Weare begins teaching a legal seminar focused exclusively on U.S. territories this semester at Yale Law School.

"It's exciting to return to Yale Law School, where I studied, to now teach about an important area of law that most law students unfortunately miss out on," said Weare, who is the founder and president of Equally American, a nonprofit organization that advocates for equality and voting rights for the nearly 4 million Americans living in U.S. territories.

Weare grew up in Guam, representing Guam in the 2004 Athens Olympics and graduating as part of Southern High School's inaugural class. Prior to law school he worked for Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, then-senator Lou Leon Guerrero, and Delegate Robert Underwood. His parents, Dr. William and Nancy Weare, have lived in Guam for the last 30 years.

"It's a big deal that law schools like Yale are starting

to include specific courses on the territories," said Weare, who will be teaching his Law of Territories course as a visiting lecturer in law. The seminar has attracted a lot of interest, with 40 students signing up to fill 25 spots in the course.

Two students in the seminar, third-year law student James Campbell and second-year law student Kyla Eastling, have Guam ties. Campbell, whose grandparents are the late Felicitia Rosa Long and James O. Long of Mangilao, worked as a judicial intern at the District Court of Guam before attending law school. Eastling, whose grandparents are the late Victoria Lujan Blas and Jesus Quitugua Charfauros, was last in Guam with the Yale Veterans Legal Services Clinic in May. Both were instrumental in petitioning the law school to sponsor the course. James also previously organized for Yale to offer a Chamoru language course via teleconference.

"Yale has a growing community of students interested in addressing the unique legal problems facing the territories," said Campbell, who has worked to build closer ties between Yale and the legal community in Guam and the other territories. Eastling



From left, Kyla Eastling, Neil Weare, and James Campbell.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

added, "I'm eager to see how my classmates take what they learn about the territories into their future legal careers."

Guam resident Kyra Blas, a graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, has also been accepted to begin Yale Law School next fall, likely adding to the number of students with Guam ties attending Yale.

The seminar will focus on

the legal and political development of U.S. territories from the founding. In particular, it will critically examine the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions in the Insular Cases, a series of cases from the early 1900s that created a legal justification for the "separate and unequal" treatment of territorial residents.

Beyond the coursework, Weare will also involve stu-

dents in Equally American's efforts to overrule the Insular Cases, expand voting rights in U.S. territories, and other projects.

As part of the course, Equally American is developing a new federal voting rights lawsuit to expand the right to vote in U.S. territories that will be modeled after its prior case, *Segovia v. United States*. Students will be helping iden-

tify potential plaintiffs and will support advocacy inside and outside the courtroom to address the denial of voting rights in U.S. territories, which are Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Toward that end, Equally American is reaching out to territorial residents who wish to vote for President in the 2020 Presidential Election. Those who are interested should take Equally American's Right to Vote Survey, available at http://www.equalrightsnw.org/right_to_vote_survey.

In particular, Equally American is looking for territorial residents who are former residents of Hawaii, California, or Florida, three states where it is considering filing the new lawsuit.

Ultimately, Weare is excited for the opportunity to engage students inside the classroom to make a difference for residents of U.S. territories outside the classroom. "Hopefully our advocacy for the territories inside and outside the courts will continue giving law schools reason to teach about the unique issues faced by residents of U.S. territories." (PR)



Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

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Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

MARPO HEIGHTS PHASE II HOMESTEAD SUBDIVISION
PERMIT APPLICATION NO. TMS-2020-X-006

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Marpo Heights Phase II Homestead Subdivision project in Tinian.

The Department of Public Lands is proposing to develop the Marpo Heights Phase II Homestead Subdivision in a rural area identified as Lot No. 271-T-73, measuring about 51.7 ha or 128.5 acres of land. The proposed homestead subdivision is comprised of 456 residential lots, a park, and ponding basin.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Monday, February 10th, 2020, at 4:30PM, in San Jose, Tinian. Venue for the public hearing will be announced at a later date.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Marpo Heights Phase II Homestead Subdivision project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management



Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: January 16, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) regarding the proposed hydrographic drone operation, and coral reef ecosystem survey of Mariana Islands, April-September 2020.

For more information about the project, please proceed to the following
<https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/Marianas-2020-CZMA-CNMI-1.pdf>

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally-approved coastal management plan. Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on January 15, 2020 and ending on January 29, 2020. We look forward to your input.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The Iranian people are not the enemy



AP

Anti-government protesters attend a demonstration blaming the government for the delayed announcement of the unintentional downing of a Ukrainian plane last week, at the Tehran University campus in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020.

Protests are continuing in Iran. But increasingly the focus of Iranian ire is the theocracy itself after the government belatedly admitted it mistakenly shot down a Ukrainian airliner, killing all 176 on board.

That the mood could shift so quickly among the massive crowds grieving Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who was killed by a U.S. airstrike in Iraq, seemed to surprise Iranian officials. Yet those who've been paying attention to the protest movement in Iran know that it was hitting critical mass before the Soleimani killing and the retaliatory Iranian airstrike against U.S. bases in Iraq.

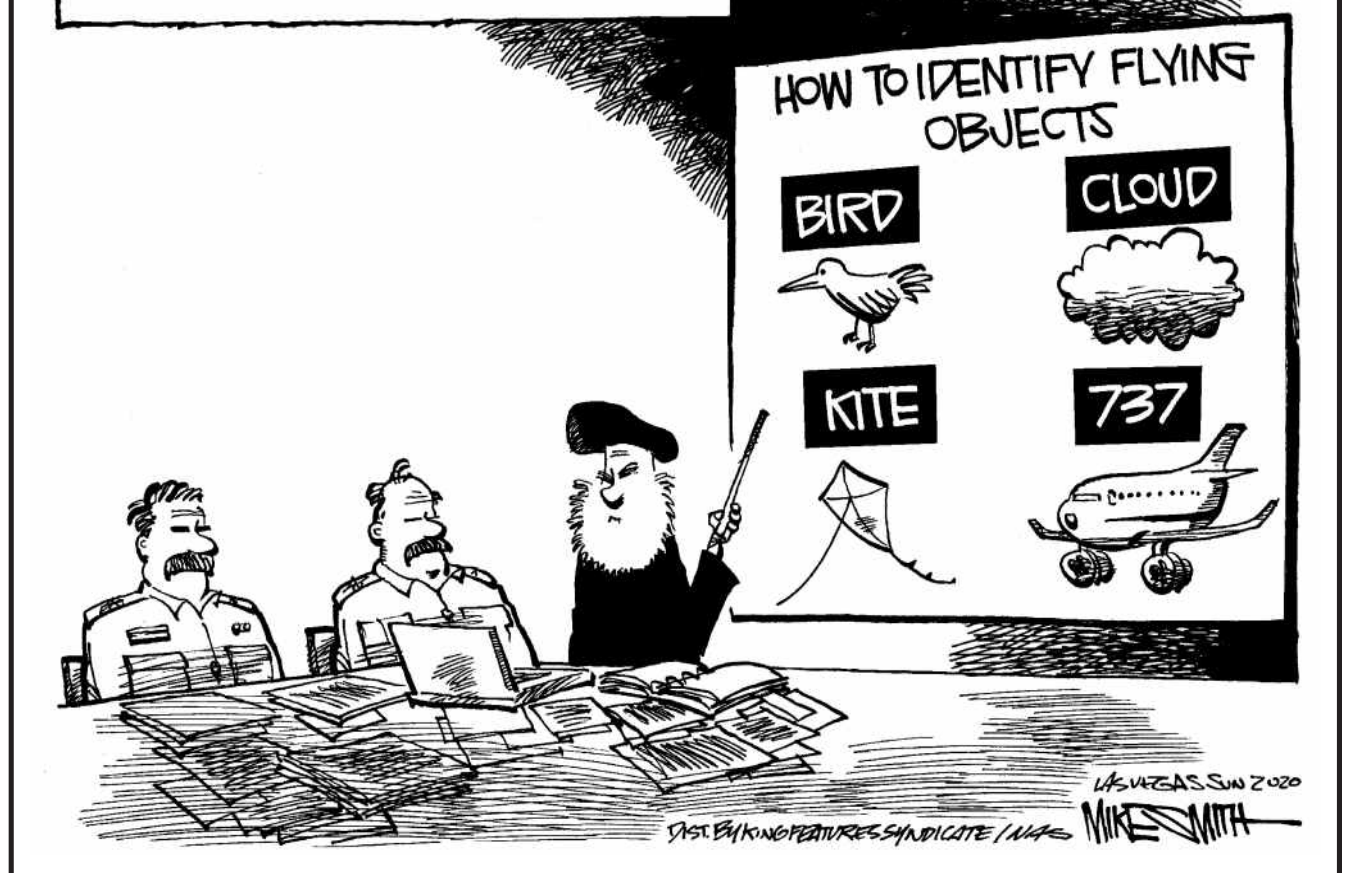
Protesters already had justification to take to the streets. Iran's government, concurrently feckless and reckless, has stolen yet another generation's future with its ideologically driven militarism that has destabilized the Mideast and made the Persian nation a pariah state in much of the world. The initial lies denying any involvement in the plane's downing—followed by admission and contrition for the tragedy—has led to a metastasizing outrage that has even convulsed conservatives normally supportive of the Islamic Republic.

"They killed our geniuses and replaced them with clerics!" chanted protesters in Shiraz, who could have been talking about Iran's repressive rule at home as well as the victims of the plane crash, many of whom were students. Some of the chants in Tehran were more geopolitically pointed. "Our enemy is right here. ... They lie to us that it's America," some protesters said.

They're right about their regime—and our government. The Iranian people are not the enemy. The conflict is with the government, which is directly responsible for the deaths of scores of U.S. forces in Iraq, as well as other regionally

See *IRANIAN* on Next Page

MEANWHILE, BACK IN IRAN...



American leadership needed to fight climate change

As it becomes more apparent that climate change is a true worldwide emergency, there's a mounting need for a big policy push to curb greenhouse emissions. But that leaves the question of which policy steps would be most effective.

Despite having high per-capita emissions, the U.S. is actually responsible for only about a seventh of the global total carbon output. U.S. emissions from power-generation are falling as the country transitions away from coal, even as China adds more coal-fired plants. Meanwhile, poor countries are eager to begin or accelerate their own industrialization. For the U.S. to help fix this global problem, it will need to employ solutions that have a worldwide impact—researching and disseminating new technologies, subsidizing companies to scale up these technologies and make them cost-effective, paying other countries to use renewable energy and taxing the products of those nations that increase their use of dirty fuels.

But the U.S. needs to clean its own house. If the U.S. doesn't curb its own emissions substantially, it will look like a hypocrite for trying to get the rest of the world to do so. That would make it much harder to conclude future global climate agreements and will make competitors reluctant to switch from fossil fuels for fear of forfeiting competitive advantage.

The good news is that U.S. emissions from electricity generation are already going down, leading to an estimated 2.1% decline in total emissions in 2019. The startling and consistent decline in the price of solar energy means that this trend is almost certain to continue.

The bad news is that electricity represents less than a third of all U.S. emissions. And the other big categories—transportation, industry, commercial and residential buildings—are all either unchanged or rising:

To keep the emissions decline going, transportation, industry and buildings must be addressed. And here's where policy comes in.

The first task is simply to sustain the decline in electricity emissions. Electricity is the key to all other categories of emissions reduction because the more the grid runs on renewables, the more reductions can be achieved by hooking everything else up to the grid. This means shutting every coal-fired power plant in the country as quickly as possible. It also means continuing to subsidize solar adoption. And it means not making the mistake of banning nuclear power or fracking to extract natural gas.

By **NOAH SMITH**
Bloomberg View

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He was an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University, and he blogs at [Noahpinion](http://Noahpinion.com).



For transportation—now the biggest emissions source—the key policy is to replace internal-combustion vehicles with battery-powered electric ones. Fortunately, batteries, like solar, are rapidly falling in price. But if there aren't enough places to charge electric cars, trucks and buses, people and companies will be reluctant to switch because of fear of getting stranded. Governments need a big push to make charging infrastructure ubiquitous in homes and workplaces and to create charging stations for trucking and road trips. This will cost relatively little as government spending goes—perhaps a few tens of billions of dollars nationwide—but coordination across states will be an issue. The federal government must step in to make sure every state does its part. In addition, the government should keep subsidizing batteries to drive down costs through scale and industrial learning. Cheaper batteries will also help eliminate carbon from the electrical grid because batteries can store solar power for use when the sun isn't shining.

Emissions from buildings, both commercial and residential, also are a solvable problem. Many buildings now use gas for heating and cooking; reducing emissions means replacing gas with electricity wherever possible. There are also various ways buildings can be constructed to make them more energy-efficient. Changing rules for new buildings and retrofitting old ones would both require new regulation. But it would also require lots of tax incentives and direct public spending to keep these new requirements from depressing new construction.

Industry will be the hardest problem. Lots of manufacturing now requires intense heat, and the only economically feasible way to get that heat is to burn natural gas or other fossil fuels. In addition, some widespread and economically essential products such as steel and cement release lots of carbon when they're made.

See *AMERICAN* on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ways to cancel your New Year's resolutions

We're two weeks into 2020, and if you've managed to maintain your New Year's resolutions, I have great news: You can quit now.

As I was browsing the internet, in clear violation of my resolution to stop spending so much time browsing the internet, I came across a story that changed my life and broadened my understanding of the foolish and doomed-to-fail resolutions so many of us make each year.

A post on the University of Michigan's medical blog—another thing I resolved to stop spending so much time on—carried the headline, “A replacement for exercise?” To which I responded, “YES, PLEASE!”

Michigan Medicine researchers found that a type of protein called Sestrin “can mimic many of exercise's effects in flies and mice.” That's good news, because, frankly, it wouldn't hurt America to have a few more flies and mice with clearly defined abs. It just makes us look tougher as a nation.

IRANIAN

From Page 10

malign activity.

President Donald Trump tweeted (in both English and Farsi) his support for the protesters. Among his messages was this: “To the leaders of Iran—DO NOT KILL YOUR PROTESTERS. Thousands have already been killed or imprisoned by you, and the World is watching. More importantly, the USA is watching. Turn your internet back on and let reporters roam free! Stop the killing of your great Iranian people!”

Trump's appeal for media freedom would be more powerful if it wasn't inconsistent with his denigration of U.S. news media outlets as the “enemy of the people” and his dismissal of accurate but unflattering accounts as “fake news.” But he's right about the protests in Iran, and Congress should amplify his support for those who are taking to the streets. And the U.S. should be especially vigilant that Iranian hard-liners don't try to refocus the narrative by provoking American or allied interests or citizens.

As far as the tragedy itself, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is right to “expect Iran to assure its readiness for a full and open investigation, to bring those responsible to justice, to return the bodies of the victims, to pay compensation and to make official apologies through diplomatic channels.” Canada, which lost 57 citizens, as well as other nations affected should expect the same treatment.

In America, the debate about the Trump administration's justification for the strike and overall foreign policy strategy is necessary. But there should be no debate that protesting Iranians deserve protection, not repression.

(c)2020 *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis)

AMERICAN

From Page 10

Unlike in the case of vehicles or buildings, there's no technological silver bullet. Electricity can solve the heating problem in some cases, but it's often much more expensive, and for some applications it simply doesn't get hot enough. Ultimately the fix will involve a hodgepodge of solutions such as biofuel and hydrogen. And in many cases, the most economical option will probably be simply to capture and store the carbon from industrial fossil fuel use.

The lack of a perfect answer means that the best way the government can encourage each industry to find its own optimal solution is with a carbon tax. In general, carbon taxes are regressive, falling hardest on the poor and middle class. But a carbon tax specifically on industrial processes would probably fall more on corporate owners than consumers and workers, and it would create an incentive for a thousand specialized technological solutions to emerge.

Although the battle against catastrophic climate change ultimately depends on many countries, the U.S. can do its part. Switching to electric vehicles and buildings, continuing to turn to renewables and implementing a carbon tax on industry will help the planet at relatively modest cost to the economy.

To get the flies to work out, researchers took advantage of “flies' normal instinct to climb up and out of a test tube.” (To show my solidarity with flies, I'd like to note that if I was put in a test tube, it would also be my instinct to climb up and out.)

Some flies were bred to not produce Sestrin, and the researchers—who I will call “fly personal trainers”—found the Sestrin-free flies didn't become more fit with exercise. However, when the fly personal trainers juiced some flies up with maximum Sestrin levels “they found those flies had abilities above and beyond the trained flies, even without exercise.”

“Even without exercise” are my three favorite words. And this University of Michigan blog post is just the nugget of science news I needed to hear.

Like 114% of Americans, one of my New Year's resolutions was to exercise more. And since I can now deceive myself into believing that exercise will soon come in convenient Sestrin-rich pill or gummy form, I can cancel the gym membership and declare, “Resolution accomplished!” (This will work for anyone who did not top their resolutions list with: “Stop misinterpreting medical research to justify your laziness.”)

After reading the parts of the blog post that said what I wanted to hear and ignoring the parts that made clear I won't be getting an exercise pill anytime soon, I sat back on the couch and pondered New Year's resolutions, careful not to exert myself.

“If I can swiftly drop a New Year's resolution because of something I came across on the internet,” I thought, napping mid-consideration so as not to get winded, “shouldn't I provide others with a similar opportunity?”

The answer, of course, was yes. So I'm putting these resolution-debunking things on the internet so others can give them a cursory read, not give much thought to their validity and use them to resume whatever bad behavior they were trying to improve.

“DOES DIETING ACTUALLY HELP YOU LOSE WEIGHT?”

No. No, it doesn't.

In a lengthy body of research that I call “My Life,” I've found conclusively that dieting does not promote weight loss, in large part because food is delicious and not eating it seems stupid.

In fact, my research has shown that dieting promotes sadness, which I'm sure other research shows is unhealthy.

“IS BINGE-WATCHING A TELEVISION SHOW AS GOOD FOR YOU AS READING?”

Absolutely. I gave up reading five years ago and have binge-watched nearly every television series available on Netflix and Amazon Prime and I can tell you I am not have become one

By **REX HUPPKE**

Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a Chicago Tribune columnist. Readers may send him email at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com.



single bort dummer. In florkt, I would say that between reeding credits and Googling word thingies that talk about televisions shows, I've gratefully expunged my vocabulation.

We are to be right now living in the Goltten Age of television and the best think you can does for your mind is tune in. Books are for losers. Why r u even reeding this? Get too a TV kwik.

“SHOULD I REALLY SPEND LESS TIME ON SOCIAL MEDIA?”

LOL. No.

According to a 2019 Pew Research Center Report, nearly 70% of U.S. adults use Facebook. Do you think 70% of U.S. adults are dumb? Because if so, that's pretty elitist of you and might be why you don't have more Facebook friends. You should get on Facebook right now and apologize immediately so people don't think you're a jerk.

Also, Phil, Tara and Dolores have birthdays today. If you miss those you're going to look like even more of a jerk.

“HOW CAN I BE MORE MINDFUL?”

Are you reading this? If so, you're mindful. Congratulations.

Are you not reading this and instead watching TV? That's good too, because if so, you're being mindful while watching TV and fulfilling your resolution to get smelter by knot reading.

Mindfulness is anything you want it to be. Do you like sitting in silence and contemplating the positives in your life? SUPER! Go for it.

Do you prefer to charge forward with your busy life and just try to get everything done so you can get home and maybe, just maybe, watch a few minutes of that new HBO show everyone's raving about before falling asleep on the couch? Nice work, you're mindful.

Whatever else you've read about mindfulness, the most mindful thing you can do is believe this one, because it is giving you permission to proclaim, “Mindfulness achieved!”

Go forth and be mindful. And make sure you tell your friends on Facebook about it. And get yourself a nice bowl of ice cream. You deserve it.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Republican Party leaders

It is your prerogative, of course, to stand behind the governor and any other politician you please—no matter the criticism, no matter the evidence, and even regardless of public opinion. Name-calling against people who hold views you don't like seems unnecessary and uncivil, to say the least, but that, too, is your prerogative.

However, when you accuse minority members in the Legislature of “put[ting] forward positions that are disrespectful to our voters and our democratic system,” and when you claim that we are responsible for “division and lies,” and when you say that Republicans in the Legislature will *not* entertain further action in an inquiry into the allegations of abuses of power and misuses of public funds by the governor, you must expect there will be a response. There will be public outrage. You will be called out.

What positions have we in the minority taken that are so objectionable to you? We have called for a fair and impartial investigation into allegations of public corruption, waste, fraud, and

abuse of public funds by the governor. We have submitted records to the House. We have sought additional records from the administration. Is that “disrespectful?” It's called doing our jobs.

If we were to ignore all the mounting allegations and the pleas of our constituents to do our jobs and open an inquiry, would that be “respectful” in your view, to our voters and democratic system? In the eyes of the GOP, is it “disrespectful” to uphold our laws? Is our demand for transparency and accountability “disrespectful?” Please explain. We are genuinely curious.

You say that “no infraction known to [you] has risen to the level of impeachment.” This statement bears further scrutiny. What infractions are known to you, and how have you arrived at that decision? Who reviewed the evidence? Who rendered the judgment? And suppose more “infractions” might be uncovered in the investigation that you now firmly oppose? Would it be “respectful” to simply turn a blind eye?

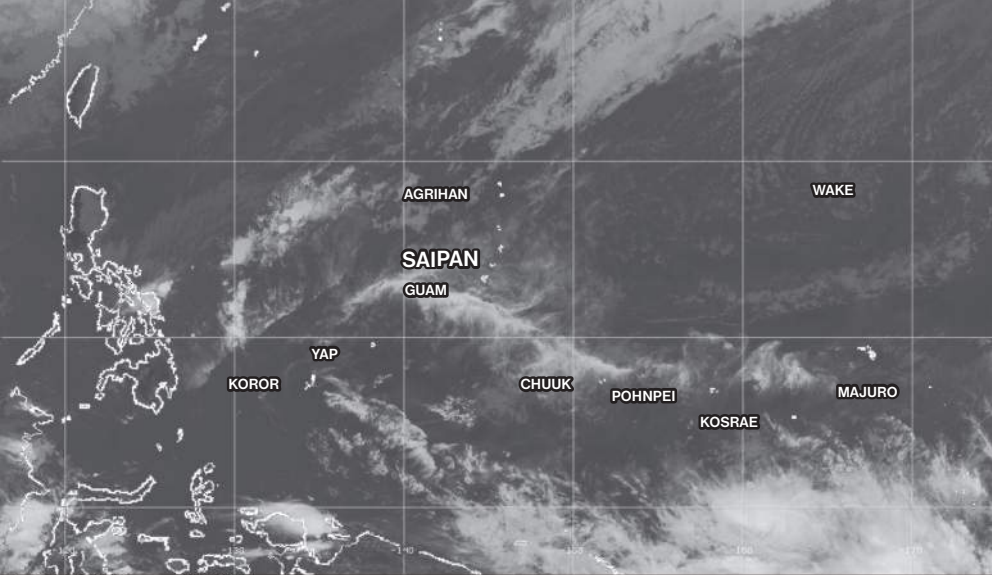
Stand behind whomever you choose. But please don't stand in the way of ongoing investigations. That's called obstruction. Our people deserve truth and accountability. The governor, too, deserves due process. Hopefully, all our colleagues in the Legislature recognize the importance of a fair and thorough inquiry, regardless of the partisan bluster blowing our way.

Christina Sablan

*CNMI House of Representatives
21st Legislature, Capital Hill*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph becoming northeast saturday.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers		Partly cloudy with isolated showers		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	76°	88°	76°	88°	76°	88°	76°	88°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:45 AM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A dry air mass and strong inversion will limit shower development the next few days. The best chance for showers will be during the early morning hours. Models continue to depict a weak trade-wind trough passing through the Marianas. Showers still look to stay isolated at this time. A shear line (weakened cold front) may follow this trough, prolonging clouds and chance of showers. If the shear line holds together, expect breezy northeast winds the first half of the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°	
Palau	Mostly Sunny	84° / 77°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Showers	83° / 78°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	72° / 57°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	37° / 18°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	72° / 63°	
Honolulu	Showers	78° / 71°	
London	Rain	54° / 45°	
Los Angeles	Rain	60° / 45°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	75° / 57°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	79° / 71°	
New York	Windy	47° / 26°	
Osaka	Cloudy	50° / 41°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	55° / 48°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 34°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	57° / 36°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	67° / 45°	
San Francisco	Rain	51° / 42°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	39° / 19°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	50° / 39°	
Washington, DC	Windy	49° / 30°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:40 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.17	
12:33 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.81	
6:55 PM	LOW TIDE	0.66	
11:54 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.39	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:06 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:07 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:07 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:08 AM	11:32 PM
Friday	-	11:51 AM	-
Saturday	12:28 AM	12:35 PM	-
Sunday	1:24 AM	1:20 PM	-
Monday	2:21 AM	2:06 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 6, 2020									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily		UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily	
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6		UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7		SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily	
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6						
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily		7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	
					7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily		OZ623	6:45am	12:10pm	5	
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1		OZ623	7:00am	12:20pm	7	
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7		OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6	
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4		OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3	
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily		7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily	
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6		TW309	11:10am	4:25pm	Daily	
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7		OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7	
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily		TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily	
TW310	5:25pm	10:15pm	Daily		OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	
					OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3	
					7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	4, 7		3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 6	
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)					HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN				
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1		JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4	
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4		JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6		3U864	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7		MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN		UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM	
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM		OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR		OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN	
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM		UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR		UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
					OZ704/623	11:45pm	12:10pm+1	5 via ICN	
					OZ704/623	11:45pm	12:20pm+1	7 via ICN	
					OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
					OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/623	12:35am	12:10pm	5 via ICN	
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ746/623	12:35am	12:20pm	7 via ICN	
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN		OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
UO43	5:40am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7		OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3 via ICN	
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5 via ICN		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	12:15am+1	7 via ICN		OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN	
					UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7	
					UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily		
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily		
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily		
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily		
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily		
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily		
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily		
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily		
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily		
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily		
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily		
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily		
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily		
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily		
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily		
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily		
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily		
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily		

Business

Food delivery service app Eats Easy to launch soon

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The new year brings a new food delivery app on Saipan. The unique thing about this new food delivery app, however, is that it's more than that. Co-owner Clint Albert said that Eats Easy is also a marketing app for restaurants and food establishments to promote their offerings to customers.

"It's a new and exciting marketing tool for local restaurants that creates a captured market for your marketing campaigns and ads," he said.

Eats Easy is also the first, and so far, only GPS-based app designed for food delivery service for the people of Saipan, he added.

For the basics, Easy Eats delivery cost is \$4 for 5 miles

or less, \$7 for 5.1 miles to 6.9 miles, \$9 for 7.1 miles or farther, or 10% of total order, whichever is higher.

What's more, Eats Easy provides 1 point for every accumulated \$100 spent by users. In turn these points can be used as dollar value to pay for the service.

"If you are hungry we will make sure to bring your cravings to you and conquer that hunger!" said Albert. Unlike other delivery services on island, Eats Easy allows customers to track the delivery because the app uses GPS.

"Users receive delivery information and can track the whereabouts of the driver who will deliver to them," he said.

With Saipan having next to nothing in terms of food delivery service and it being a small



Soon Eats Easy's fleet of delivery vehicles will bring food to as high as Mount Tapochao and as far as Cowtown.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Eats Easy is a new food delivery and marketing app that caters to the island's restaurants and food establishments.

island, that makes it a fertile ground to start Eats Easy, Albert said.

"We feel there is a need for food delivery service as most restaurants here do not deliver, unlike most parts of the world where you have a lot of restaurants doing their own delivery

plus apps like ours also doing delivery for them. We believe [Eats Easy], together with our other features and functions, will help market [local] restaurants and expand their reach," he said.

Indeed, the delivery service only scratches the surface of Eats Easy's capabilities; the app is also a platform in itself to market restaurants to customers.

Albert, who is behind The

Game Athletics clothing brand on Saipan, said Eats Easy's marketing feature gives restaurants that sign up a flexible and affordable medium to advertise their menu, promotions, and news.

"It's a flexible and affordable marketing platform and

has the potential to increase business revenue by an additional 30-40% without

worrying

about table turnover," he said. The marketing feature includes streaming banner in the app itself, email and text blasts to specific target audience, and app coupons and promos.

But why launch the Eats Easy app on Saipan? Albert said it's all about firsts. "Being the first GPS-based food delivery app in the island is

something we can be proud of and, when the business expands, we can also say it was born and raised on the island of Saipan before it was bigger."

Aside from Albert, Eats Easy is also owned by Marco

Santiago, Lovely Macaranas, and Jeric Despi.

Eats Easy will launch this month and the app can be downloaded on Google Play Store for Android and Apple Store for iPhone by next week.

United Airlines operated extra section

United Airlines operated an extra section yesterday, Jan. 15, between Guam and Manila to accommodate any remaining affected passengers as a result of the Taal Volcano eruption in the Philippines.

United Corporate Communications said UA2800 departed Guam at 9:20am yesterday and was scheduled to arrive in Manila at 11am. UA2801 then departed Manila at 12pm and set to arrive in Guam at 5:35pm that same day. United customers can contact united.com, United reservations at 1-800-UNITED-1 (1-800-

864-8331), their travel agent, or United's City Ticket Office in Guam for rebooking.

United Corporate Communications said all flights are subject to change based on the unpredictable conditions surrounding the Taal Volcano's activity, and as a result, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila.

"The safety of our customers and employees is our top priority. United continues to monitor this situation closely to ensure that conditions are safe for travel," the statement said. **(PR)**

US-China pact signing to ease tension but leave much undone

WASHINGTON (AP)—After 18 months of economic combat, the United States and China are set to take a step toward peace Wednesday. At least for now.

President Donald Trump and China's chief negotiator, Liu He, are scheduled to sign a modest trade agreement in which the administration will ease some sanctions on China and Beijing will step up its purchases of U.S. farm products and other goods. Above all, the deal will defuse a conflict that has slowed global growth, hurt American manufacturers and weighed on the Chinese economy.

But the so-called Phase 1

to make the major economic reforms — such as reducing unfair subsidies for its own companies — that the Trump administration sought when it started the trade war by imposing tariffs on Chinese imports in July 2018. The U.S. has yet to reveal details of the agreement, though U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer has said they would be made public Wednesday.

Most analysts say any meaningful resolution of the key U.S. allegation — that Beijing uses predatory tactics in its drive to supplant America's technological supremacy — could require years of contentious talks. And skeptics

say a satisfactory resolution may be next to impossible given China's ambitions to become the global leader in such advanced technologies as driverless cars and artificial intelligence.

"The signing of the Phase 1 deal would represent a welcome, even if modest, de-escalation of trade hostilities between China and the U.S.," said Eswar Prasad, a Cornell University economist and former head of the International Monetary Fund's China division. "But it hardly addresses in any substantive way the fundamental sources of trade and economic tensions between the two sides, which will continue to fester."

In a letter to Trump on Monday, the top Senate Democrat, Chuck Schumer of New York, complained that the Phase 1 deal appeared to make "very little progress in reforming China's rapacious trade behaviors and seems like it could send a signal to Chinese negotiators that the U.S. can be steamrolled."

The thornier issues are expected to be taken up in future rounds of negotiations. But it's unclear when they will begin. And few expect much progress before the November U.S. election.

"Phase 2 -- I wouldn't wait by the phone," said John Veroneau, who was a U.S. trade official in the George W. Bush administration and is now co-chair of the international

trade practice at Covington & Burling. "That is probably a 2021 issue."

Under the Phase 1 agreement, which the two sides reached in mid-December, the administration dropped plans to impose tariffs on an additional \$160 billion in Chinese imports. And it halved, to 7.5%, existing tariffs on \$110 billion of good from China.

For its part, Beijing agreed to significantly increase its purchases of U.S. products. According to the Trump administration, China is to buy \$40 billion a year in U.S. farm products — an ambitious goal for a country that has never imported more than \$26 billion a year in U.S. agricultural products.

The deal may be most no-

table for what it doesn't do. It leaves in place tariffs on about \$360 billion in Chinese imports—a level of protectionism that would have been unthinkable before Trump took office.

Chad Bown of the Peterson Institute for International Economics calculates that the Phase 1 agreement will leave nearly two-thirds of Chinese imports covered by Trump's tariffs. Beijing's retaliatory tariffs affect more than half of American exports to China. The average U.S. tariff on Chinese imports has risen from 3% in January 2018 to 21% now.

High tariffs between the world's two biggest economies, Bown says, are now "the new normal."

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Nation

Pelosi sets Wednesday votes to send impeachment to Senate

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. House is set to vote Wednesday to send the articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump to the Senate for a landmark trial on whether the charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress are grounds for removal.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced the next steps after meeting privately with House Democrats at the Capitol, ending her blockade Tuesday a month after they voted to im-

peach Trump.

It will be only the third presidential impeachment trial in American history, a serious moment coming amid the backdrop of a politically divided nation and an election year.

"The President and the Senators will be held accountable," Pelosi said in a statement. "The American people deserve the truth, and the Constitution demands a trial."

The Senate is expected to transform into an impeach-

ment court as early as Thursday. The Constitution calls for the chief justice to preside over senators, who serve as jurors, to swear an oath to deliver "impartial justice." The House managers will walk the articles across the Capitol in a dramatic procession Wednesday evening after the midday vote.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday the chief justice would open the trial this week, but that the significant proceedings would launch next Tues-

day, after the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Trump was impeached by the Democratic-led House last month on charges of abuse of power over pushing Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden as the president withheld aid from the country, and obstructing Congress' ensuing probe.

McConnell met behind closed doors Tuesday with GOP senators who are under pressure from Democrats to call new witnesses and testi-

mony. He urged them to hold together on the next steps, according to a person unauthorized to discuss the private session and granted anonymity.

Late Tuesday, House investigators announced they were turning over a "trove" of new records of phone calls, text messages and other information from Lev Parnas, an associate of Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani. Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said the information shows Trump's effort "to coerce Ukraine into helping the President's reelection campaign." He said this and other new testimony must be included in the Senate trial.

McConnell, who is negotiating rules for the trial proceedings, he said all 53 GOP senators are on board with his plan to start the session and consider the issue of witnesses later.

Senate Republicans also signaled they would reject the idea of simply voting to dismiss the articles of impeachment against Trump, as the

president has suggested. McConnell agreed he does not have the votes to do that.

"There is little or no sentiment in the Republican conference for a motion to dismiss," McConnell said. "Our members feel we have an obligation to listen to the arguments."

In fact, a mounting number of senators say they want to ensure the ground rules include the possibility of calling new witnesses.

Sen. Susan Collins of Maine is leading an effort among some Republicans, including Mitt Romney of Utah and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska for witness votes.

"My position is that there should be a vote on whether or not witnesses should be called," Collins said.

Romney said he wants to hear from John Bolton, the former national security adviser at the White House, who others have said raised alarms about the alternative foreign policy toward Ukraine being run by Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani.



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., joined by House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., leaves a lengthy closed-door meeting with the Democratic Caucus at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020.

US sending Mexican migrants a thousand miles from border

PHOENIX (AP)—The Trump administration said Tuesday it will start deporting about 250 Mexicans a week on flights from Tucson, Arizona, to Guadalajara, over 1,000 miles (1,640 kilometers) from the border.

The move reflects how Mexicans have become a higher priority in border enforcement as fewer Central Americans head to the U.S. The flights aim to deter attempts at crossing the border illegally by sending people deeper into Mexico.

Immigration authorities began the repatriation flights to Mexico's interior in December. The Department of Homeland Security said there will be two flights a week, starting Jan. 24.

Heather Swift, a department spokeswoman, said the flights satisfy a longstanding request of the Mexican government and will take people who are deported closer to their hometowns. Mexicans from states that border the U.S. will not be put on the flights.

Mexicans are exempt from a U.S. policy introduced a year ago to make asylum-seekers wait in Mexico for hearings in U.S. immigration court. More than 56,000 asylum-seekers had been turned back by the end of November, according to Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access

Clearinghouse, about two-thirds of them Guatemalan or Honduran.

The policy, called "Migrant Protection Protocols," has expanded across the border as the number of Central Americans arriving at the border has plunged.

Mexicans accounted for half of the arrests and people stopped at the U.S. border in December, more than three times more than any other nationality and a shift from much of last year, when Guatemala and Honduras were the top countries of origin.

"This is another example of the Trump administration working with the government of Mexico to address the ongoing border security crisis," Swift said.

A similar program in place from 2004 to 2012 also flew Mexicans who had crossed the border through Arizona deep into Mexican cities at the cost of \$100 million over its lifespan. The repatriation program was meant as a deterrent for border-crossers who might attempt the trek again.

Mexican officials initially had doubts, but they embraced the program as a way to save lives at a time when thousands of migrants were dying in the desert.

Over 125,000 people were flown at no cost to them. The program ended when the number of migrants began to drop.

ACROSS THE NATION

Jet dumps fuel that lands on schoolkids near Los Angeles

CUDAHY, Calif. (AP)—A mist of fuel dumped by an airliner with an engine problem as it made an emergency return to Los Angeles International Airport fell on several schools Tuesday, causing minor skin and lung irritation to 56 children and adults, officials said. The fuel sprayed out of the plane in two lines and the strong-smelling vapor descended at midday in the city of Cudahy and nearby parts of Los Angeles County, about 13 miles (21 kilometers) east of the airport. The vapor fell on five elementary schools, but all injuries were minor and no one was taken to hospitals, Los Angeles County Fire Department Inspector Sky Cornell said. It didn't force any evacuations. "That's a great sign," Cornell said. All the fuel evaporated very quickly and nothing flammable remained in the air or on the

ground, he said. People were treated with soap and water, Fire Inspector Henry Narvaez said. Shortly after takeoff, Delta Air Lines Flight 89 to Shanghai "experienced an engine issue requiring the aircraft to return quickly to LAX."

Student fatally shot at Texas high school; suspect arrested

BELLAIRE, Texas (AP)—A student was shot to death Tuesday at a Texas high school, and a suspect was arrested hours later, officials said. Grenita Latham, interim superintendent of the Houston Independent School District, confirmed the shooting victim at Bellaire High School had died. She gave no other information and took no questions. A suspect was arrested Tuesday night, according to a school district statement issued about 3 1/2 hours after the shooting. It provided no other details about where the shooting occurred in the school complex,

whether the suspect was a student, or what led to the arrest. The district announces classes had been canceled Wednesday after Latham originally said they were going on as scheduled. Representatives of the district and Bellaire police did not immediately reply to messages from The Associated Press. Emergency crews were seen performing CPR as the student was carried on a stretcher to an ambulance outside the school, KPRC-TV reported. There were conflicting media reports about whether the shooting happened inside or outside the school.

Census Bureau plans hundreds of ads in 13 languages for 2020

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Faced with a changed media landscape from the last once-a-decade head count in 2010, U.S. Census Bureau officials unveiled a multi-million dollar media campaign on Tuesday involving hundreds of

digital ads, TV commercials, radio spots, billboards and prints ads in 13 languages. The goal is to make sure every household responds to the 2020 census. Census Bureau officials said they expect the campaign to reach 99% of households. "The 2020 Census is here," said Steven Dillingham, the director of the U.S. Census Bureau, at a news conference in Washington. The head count starts next week in rural, native villages in Alaska, but the rest of the country won't be able to start answering the questionnaire until mid-March. This is the first decennial census in which the Census Bureau is encouraging most respondents to answer the questionnaire online, though people will still be able to do it by phone or by mailing back paper forms. With a tagline of "Shape your future. Start here," the almost \$250 million media campaign will pay for more than 1,000 ads between January and June.

Asia

PH volcano trembles more, spews lava half-mile high

TAGAYTAY, Philippines (AP)—A volcano near the Philippine capital spewed lava into the sky and trembled constantly Tuesday, possibly portending a bigger and more dangerous eruption, as tens of thousands of people fled villages darkened and blanketed by heavy ash.

Government work was suspended and schools were closed in a number of towns and cities, including Manila, because of health risks from the ash. Hundreds of flights were canceled or delayed, affecting tens of thousands of passengers.

The restiveness of the Taal volcano and several new fissures in the ground nearby likely mean magma is rising and may lead to further eruptive activity, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

The volcano was spurring fountains of red-hot lava 800 meters (half a mile) into the sky, and the massive column of ash and volcanic debris at times lit up with streaks of lightning.

The alert level since the eruption began Sunday has been 4, indicating a hazardous eruption is possible in hours to days. Level 5, the highest, means such an eruption is underway.

More than 350 volcanic earthquakes have been recorded near Taal since Sunday, U.N. spokesman Stephane



Men watch from Tagaytay, Cavite province, south of Manila, as Taal Volcano continues to spew ash on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020.

Dujarric said in New York.

The Philippine institute said about 50 volcanic earthquakes were detected over eight hours Tuesday, indicating rising magma. It also warned that heavy and prolonged ash fall was possible in nearby villages.

“The speed in the rise of magma is important (in determining) when the volcano will have a strong eruption and if it will slow down and freeze,” said Renato Solidum,

who heads the institute. “As of now, we don’t see activities slowing down and the earthquakes still continue.”

More than 38,000 people have been relocated so far to over 200 evacuation centers, Dujarric said. He said U.N. teams are visiting centers and supporting authorities, who have asked for help getting face masks.

The picturesque volcano in the middle of a lake in Batan-

gas province south of Manila rumbled to life Sunday in a powerful explosion that blasted a 15-kilometer (9-mile) column of ash, steam and rock into the sky. Clouds of volcanic ash blowing over Manila, 65 kilometers (40 miles) to the north, closed the country’s main airport Sunday and part of Monday until the ash fall eased.

More than 500 international and domestic flights were canceled or delayed due to the overnight airport closure, af-

fecting about 80,000 passengers, airport manager Ed Monreal told The Associated Press.

“Hopefully the wind direction does not change. As long as the ash fall does not reach us, then we can be back to normalcy,” Monreal said.

The disaster-response agency counted more than 40,000 evacuees in Batangas and nearby Cavite provinces who took shelter in nearly 200 evacuation centers. Officials expected the number to swell.

Solidum warned residents

from returning to high-risk villages based on perceptions that the eruption was easing. He warned of pyroclastic flows, super-heated material from the volcano that can travel at great speed and incinerate anything in their path.

Solidum said it would take time for Taal’s restiveness to ease and the lives of affected villagers to return to normal but added it’s difficult to predict the volcano’s behavior with certainty.

“We have to make sure that people understand and, of course, government, that this is not an activity that will just be a short while,” Solidum told a news conference.

President Rodrigo Duterte visited hard-hit Batangas, which has been declared a calamity zone for faster disbursement of emergency funds. Accompanied by top disaster-response officials and Cabinet members, he promised the national government would help with the cleanup and reconstruction of the devastated province once the eruption ends.

The government disaster-response agency has not provided details of damage but journalists saw dozens of houses ruined by heavy ash and frequent quakes in two Batangas areas.

At least six people have been taken to a hospital in Tagaytay city in Cavite due to respiratory ailments caused by the ash, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said.

Australian wildfire smoke stokes health fears in cities

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Fire alarms have been sounding in high-rise buildings across downtown Sydney and Melbourne as dense smoke from distant wildfires confuse electronic sensors. Modern government office blocks in the Australian capital Canberra have been closed because the air inside is too dangerous for civil servants to breathe.

The sun has glowed an eerie red behind a brown shrouded sky for weeks over Australian metropolitan areas that usually rank high in the world’s most livable cities indexes.

It’s an unprecedented dilemma for Australians accustomed to blue skies and sunny days that has raised fears for the long-term health consequences if prolonged exposure to choking smoke becomes the new summer norm. Similar concerns over smoke are emerging in other

regions of the globe being impacted by more fires tied to climate change, including the Western U.S.

“I’m going to give birth any day now, literally, and I’m going to have a newborn baby that I’m going to protect from all this,” said Emma Mauch, a pregnant Canberra mother.

Her friend, Sonia Connor, described the struggle of keeping her own energetic 3-year-old daughter contained inside their Canberra house with windows and doors sealed by tape as the outside temperature exceeded 42 degrees Celsius (108 degrees Fahrenheit). It’s a choice between air flow in stifling heat or keeping potentially toxic smoke out.

“My daughter hasn’t shown any sort of symptoms, let’s say. For me, I can feel it in my lungs, my throat has felt weird,” Connor said.

“It doesn’t seem to be stopping her, but the long-term ef-

fects? Who knows? She’s 3. Who knows what’s going to happen?” she added.

Slovenian tennis player Dalila Jakupovic fell to her knees in a coughing fit on Wednesday while competing in a qualifying match for the Australian Open in Melbourne.

“I’ve never experienced something like this,” Jakupovic told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

“We are used to pollution—like, we play in China and more polluted countries—but this smoke is something different that for sure we’re not used to.”

Canberra as well as Australia’s two largest cities, Sydney and Melbourne, have at various times in recent weeks rated as the most polluted cities in the world, although some argue the industrial pollutants in places such as New Delhi are more dangerous than wood smoke.

Skorea’s Moon could seek exemption of UN sanctions on NKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Tuesday that he could seek exemptions of U.N. sanctions placed on North Korea to bring about improved inter-Korean relations that he believes would help restart nuclear negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington.

Moon has previously made similar comments, despite outside worries that any lifting of sanctions could undermine U.S.-led efforts to eliminate North Korea’s nuclear arsenal. His latest overture came about two weeks after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened to bolster his nuclear deterrent in the face of what he called “gangster-like” U.S. pressure and sanctions.

Moon said at a New Year’s news conference Tuesday that greater inter-Korean cooperation would spur progress in stalemated nuclear diplomacy between North Korea and the U.S. and help gather interna-

tional support for sanctions exemptions.

“If exceptions from U.N. sanctions are necessary for South-North cooperation, I think we can make efforts for that,” Moon said. “I think there is a heightened need for South and North Korea to dial up their cooperation a little bit and promote North Korean-U.S. talks, rather than just looking at North Korea-U.S. talks.”

Moon didn’t say on what specific sanction exemptions he may need. He said last year that he would push for the exemption of U.N. sanctions to resume two major inter-Korean economic projects—a jointly run factory park and South Korean group tours to a scenic North Korean mountain. The projects served as a rare legitimate source of foreign currency for the North.

Moon acknowledged that efforts to boost inter-Korean ties would have limits because of the U.N. sanctions. But

he said exchanges in sports and individual tours to North Korea are among the areas where the two Koreas can cooperate without violating the sanctions.

The prospect for Moon’s possible push to get sanctions exemptions is unclear. When South Korea’s foreign minister said in late 2018 that Seoul was considering lifting some unilateral sanctions on North Korea, President Donald Trump responded that South Korea “won’t do that without our approval.”

Inter-Korean relations have suffered big setbacks since the breakdown of Kim’s second summit with Trump in February 2019 in Vietnam. That summit collapsed because Trump rejected Kim’s demands for broad sanctions relief in return for dismantling his main nuclear complex, a limited disarmament step. Subsequent talks between Pyongyang and Washington reported little progress.

World

Iran announces arrests over downing of plane that killed 176

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran said Tuesday that authorities have made arrests for the accidental shootdown of a Ukrainian passenger plane, which killed all 176 people on board and set off protests in the country demanding accountability after officials initially concealed the cause of the crash.

Iran's Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili said "some individuals" were arrested after "extensive investigations." His statement on the judiciary's website did not say how many people had been detained or name those arrested.

Iran at first dismissed allegations that a missile had brought down the plane, but in the face of mounting evidence officials acknowledged on Saturday—three days after—that its Revolutionary Guard had shot down the plane by mistake as the force braced for a possible military confrontation with the United States.

The plane, en route from Tehran to the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv, was carrying 167 passengers and nine crew members from several countries, including 82 Iranians and 57 Canadians, many of whom were Iranians with dual citizenship. There were several children among the passengers, including an infant.

Iran's president on Tuesday called for a special court with



This undated photo provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Office, shows the wreckage of the Ukraine International Airlines Boeing 737-800 at the scene of the crash in Shahed-shahr, southwest of the capital Tehran, Iran.

ly breaking away from limits on its nuclear program and Europe unable to find ways to keep Tehran committed.

The U.S. sanctions have devastated Iran's economy.

On Tuesday, Britain, France and Germany triggered the so-called "dispute mechanism" action that paves way for possible further sanctions in response to Iran's moves.

Tensions sharply escalated further after on Jan. 3, when a U.S. airstrike killed Iran's most powerful commander, Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani, in Baghdad.

In response, Iran launched ballistic missiles on military bases housing U.S. troops in Iraq to avenge Soleimani's killing. The Ukrainian plane was shot down in Tehran as Iranian forces were on alert for possible U.S. retaliation.

"a ranking judge and dozens of experts" to be set up to probe the incident.

"The responsibility falls on more than just one person," President Hassan Rouhani said in a televised speech, adding that those found culpable "should be punished."

"There are others, too, and I want that this issue is expressed honestly," he said,

without elaborating.

Rouhani called the incident "a painful and unforgivable" mistake and promised that his administration would pursue the case "by all means."

"This is not an ordinary case. The entire the world will be watching this court," he said.

Tensions have been escalating since President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of

Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, then reimposed sanctions that had been lifted

under the accord.

The deal has quickly unraveled since then, with Iran steady

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexico can't sell presidential jet, tries odd sales pitches

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican President Andres Manuel López Obrador has made selling off the luxurious presidential jet a centerpiece of his austerity program, but there's just one problem: Nobody, it seems, wants to buy the white elephant. López Obrador said Tuesday the Boeing Dreamliner will be returned to Mexico after a year on sale in the United States, where it piled up about \$1.5 million in maintenance costs. Bought by his predecessor, the jet is expensive to run and now configured to carry only 80 people, albeit with a full presidential suite with a bedroom and private bath. It became a symbol of López Obrador's campaign against high-living public officials in a country where half the population lives in poverty. "They abused (their privileges). They even used planes to go play golf," López Obrador said. While the Boeing 787 drew some interest while parked at an airfield in Victorville, California, over the last year, López Obrador said potential buyers had been unable to obtain financing for the estimated sale price of \$130 million. That's a bit more than half what Mexico paid for the plane in 2012. "It was a bad deal from the start," the president sniped.

Cuba warns citizens to prepare for cooking-gas shortages

HAVANA (AP)—The Cuban government is warning citizens to prepare for shortages of cooking gas due to Trump administration sanctions on the island. State media announced Tuesday morning that cylinders of liquid petroleum gas would be scarce for Cubans who buy state-subsidized gas at about 30 cents per cylinder as well as for customers who buy gas at market prices more than 10 times higher. Many homes in Cuba depend on bottled gas because they are not connected to municipal gas lines. Electric stoves and hotplates are relatively rare

and expensive to use due to high electricity prices. "I'll have to adapt, use an electric cooking pot and hope that things get better," said Angela Leon, a 60-year-old housewife. "It's a great injustice because it's already hard to put food on the table. I hope the U.S. government is aware that what they're doing to us is unjustified." The government said in an announcement on state media that a Trump administration sanction announced in November against Cuban state energy company Corporación Panamericana had forced the cancellation of planned purchases of liquid petroleum gas.

Big Ben, big bucks: Brexit bell plan hits financial hurdle

LONDON (AP)—Will Big Ben bong for Brexit? Not unless British taxpayers cough up the bucks. The bell of Britain's Parliament has been largely silent since 2017 while its iconic clock tower undergoes four years of repairs. Brexit-backing lawmakers are campaigning for it to strike at the moment Britain leaves the European Union - 11 p.m. (2300GMT) on Jan. 31. Parliamentary officials say it is not worth the cost, which could run to 500,000 pounds (\$650,000). The House of Commons Commission, which oversees the repair work, said Tuesday that because the clock mechanism has been dismantled and the belfry is currently getting a new floor, arranging for Big Ben's bell to ring "could result in huge costs to the public purse." "You are talking about 50,000 pounds (\$65,000) a bong," House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle said. "We also have to bear in mind that the only people who will hear it will be those who live near or are visiting Westminster." But bell-loving Brexit-backers have not given up hope. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Tuesday that "we're looking at whether the public can fund it." He said the government was considering a "bung a bob for a Big Ben bong" fund so people who want to can contribute.

EU pressures Iran on atom deal in last-ditch bid to save it

BRUSSELS (AP)—Britain, France and Germany on Tuesday ratcheted up pressure on Iran to stop violating its landmark nuclear deal in a last-ditch effort to resolve their differences through talks while also starting a process that could bring back punishing U.N. sanctions on Tehran.

The three European Union countries are being pressed on one side by U.S. President Donald Trump to abandon the agreement like he did unilaterally in 2018, and on the other side from Iran to provide enough economic incentives for them to roll back their violations.

Now, the Europeans have reluctantly triggered the accord's dispute mechanism to force Iran into discussions, starting the clock on a process that could result in the "snap-back" of U.N. and EU sanctions on Iran.

The three nations specifically avoided threatening the sanctions while emphasizing hopes for a negotiated resolution. They held off their

announcement until tensions between the U.S. and Iran had calmed down after the Jan. 3 killing of an Iranian general in an American drone strike so their intent would not be misinterpreted.

"Our goal is clear: We want to preserve the accord and come to a diplomatic solution within the agreement," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said in a statement. "We will tackle this together with all partners in the agreement. We call on Iran to participate constructively in the negotiation process that is now beginning."

Iran's Foreign Ministry warned of a "serious and strong response" to the European move. But at the same time, ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi held out an olive branch, saying his country was "fully ready to answer any good will and constructive effort" that preserves the nuclear deal, Iran's official IRNA news agency reported.

The U.S. State Department said it fully supports the de-

cision to initiate the dispute resolution mechanism. "We believe further diplomatic and economic pressure is warranted by nations," it said in a statement.

"The civilized world must send a clear and unified message to the Iranian regime: Your campaign of terror, murder, mayhem will not be tolerated any longer," Trump said, according to the statement.

The accord, which Iran signed with the U.S., Britain, Germany, France, China and Russia in 2015, has been unraveling since Trump pulled Washington out in 2018 and reinstated sanctions designed to cripple the Islamic Republic under what the U.S. called a "maximum pressure" campaign.

The Europeans felt compelled to act, despite objections from Russia and China, because every violation of the deal reduces the so-called "breakout time" Iran needs to produce a nuclear bomb, Britain's Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told Parliament.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER LIFE

† *Remedio Celis Cabrera Diaz "Ochi"*

BORN OCTOBER 10, 1950 – CALLED TO HER ETERNAL LIFE JANUARY 9, 2020

In her Eternal life, she now joins:

Daughter: †Serafina Diaz
Father: †Leonardo Camacho Cabrera
Mother: †Ignacia Celis Cabrera
Father In-Law: †Vicente Lizama Diaz
Mother In-Law: †Serafina Pangelinan Diaz
Sibling: †Jose Celis Cabrera
 †Juan Celis Cabrera
Reared Brother: †Jesus Antonio Teregeyo "Namba"
Brother In-Laws: †Glenn D. Butteris
 †Calistro S. Cepeda
 †Pedro W. Torres
 †Peter Anthony P. Diaz
 †Paul Felix P. Diaz

Her memory lives in the hearts of:

Husband: Vicente P. Diaz
Children: Vicente "Cotch" P. Diaz Jr.
 Adrian Diaz
 Thomas/Chelsey Diaz (SeraFenah)
 Kekoa Diaz (Cash James)
 Timothy Anderson (Mateo Juan, Rico Miguel)

Sisters, Brothers, In-laws and Family

Eugenia C. Cepeda (†Delia Cepeda and family, Leonora/Filomon Camacho and family, †Elsie Fejeran and family, †Leonard John Cepeda, Jordonna/Bruce Sonthixay and family, Raymond Cepeda/Zania Fleming and family)
 Margarita C. Torres (Margaret Bertha Torres/Frederick Pangelinan and family, Jackie/ Joe Camacho and family, Peter/Trina Torres and family, Jesse/Gina Torres and family, Risha/Joseph Lifofoi and family)
 Victorina C. Butteris (Darrin Butteris/Doris Guerrero and family)
 Diana C. and Francisco Torres (Pamela Torres and family, Jeffrey/Nu'uipeau Torres and family, Kolani Torres and family, Francisco Torres Jr/Jermaine Cabrera and family)
 †Juan C. Cabrera (Rodney Cabrera and family, Rowena Cabrera and family, Lora Jean Cabrera and family, Juan/Jadine Cabrera and family, Ignatia Cabrera/Frank Hocog and family)
 Dolores C. and Juan Camacho (Liela/Don Yumul and family, Peter Camacho and family, Nasia/Craig Sanchez and family, Juan Camacho Jr. and family)
 Bernadita C. and Mark Palacios (Velma Palacios/Eric Benavente and family, Marvin Palacios/Lani Tarope and family, Franklin Palacios, Mark Palacios)
 Pedro C. and Emerina Cabrera (Peonie Cabrera and family, Pennie Cabrera and family, Carla Laguisma and family)

Sister and Brothers In-Laws

R.Arlene Santos (V.J. and family, Steven and family, Justin and family, Marlo and family)
 Michael Benedict Diaz
 †Peter Anthony Diaz (Dominique, Teresea, Sera)
 †Paul Felix and Maria Diaz (Shawn and family, Kristie and family)

Our beloved Remedio is survived by numerous godchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.



Daily Mass of intention for the repose of her soul is being celebrated at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 am. Nightly rosary at 7:00 pm at Kristo Rai Church.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, January 17, 2020. At 7:30am, she will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Kristo Rai Church. Responso Services and prayers will take place upon arrival. Last respects and final viewing will follow immediately after. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 am followed by Interment Service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be peacefully laid to rest.

Un dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen i Familia

Life & Style

Tom Hanks' family offered Greek passport for fire help

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece's government is extending its offer of citizenship to Tom Hanks to his wife and their two children, in recognition of the family's help in assisting victims of a deadly wildfire near Athens in 2018.

Last month, Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos signed an honorary naturalization order allowing the 63-year-old actor, who has spent his recent summer vacations at a family home on the Greek island of Antiparos, to claim Greek citizenship.

The decision published in a government gazette Tuesday and co-signed by Greek Interior Minister Takis Theodorikakos, revealed that the order also includes Hanks' wife, actress Rita Wilson, and their two sons, Chester and Truman.

The wildfire killed more than 100 people in July 2018, sweeping through the coastal town of Mati and other



Hanks

nearby resorts east of Athens.

"The Hanks family gave a signal all over the world for immediate relief actions to help our fire-stricken fellow citizens," the order signed on Dec. 27 said. It added that in their effort to assist charity efforts they had provided "exceptional services to Greece."

Honorary naturalization, under Greek law, may be granted to people "who have

provided exceptional services to the country or whose naturalization serves the public interest."

Hanks became an Orthodox Christian before his second marriage in 1988 to Rita Wilson, who is of Greek and Bulgarian descent.

Hanks, Wilson, and Hollywood producer Gary Goetzman co-produced the 2002 romantic comedy, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, which received an Academy Award nomination for best original screenplay.

In a post on Instagram last week, Hanks said: "Starting 2020 as an Honorary citizen of all of Greece! Kronia pola! (more or less, 'Many years to

you!'). Hanx"

The post shows the shadow of Hanks holding up his left arm against an ancient Greek statue.

Awkwafina gets 2nd season of new cable network comedy series

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Awkwafina may not have an Oscar nomination, but the breakout star has already secured a second-season renewal of her new Comedy Central series.

"Awkwafina is Nora from Queens" debuts Jan. 22. The network said Tuesday it was adding a second season for the show based on Awkwafina's real life growing up in the New York borough of Queens.

Awkwafina joined Jennifer Lopez, Eddie Murphy, Robert De Niro and Beyonce among the big names who didn't receive a nod when Oscar nominations were announced Monday. Awkwafina became the first actress of Asian descent to win a Golden Globe award in a leading actress category for "The Farewell."

"My emotional reaction to all of this is that I'm grateful for this journey," she said about being shut out for the Oscars. "I've had a pretty exciting ride and with this show and movies, we've seen this year that representation existed. I can't be more grateful to do what I do

and be recognized a little bit at least is incredible."

Awkwafina, whose real name is Nora Lum, created the half-hour show in which she co-stars with B.D. Wong, Bowen Yang and Lori Tan Chinn. Awkwafina also has writing and executive producer duties. She was raised by her Chinese-American father and grandparents alongside her cousin after her Korean-American mother died when she was a child.

"I loved hanging out with my grandma in my 20s. Great food," Awkwafina told a TV critics meeting on Tuesday.

As a teenager, she came up with the name Awkwafina in a nod to the awkwardness she felt and as an alter ego to her outwardly passive personality.

"I made a point to draw on very true realities of my life growing up. The character of Nora, I don't think she's overdrawn in any way," Awkwafina said of the show. "I didn't find a need in her to go for anything that wasn't truly herself. I hope it inspires young kids not to be afraid to be themselves."

Questions of racism linger as Harry, Meghan step back

LONDON (AP)—When accomplished, glamorous American actress Meghan Markle married Prince Harry in 2018, she was hailed as a breath of fresh air for Britain's fusty royal family. That honeymoon didn't last.

Now the couple wants independence, saying the pressure of life as full-time royals is unbearable. And a debate is raging: Did racism drive Meghan away?

When Prince Harry, who is sixth in line to the throne, began dating the "Suits" actress—daughter of a white father and African American mother—the media called it

a sign that Britain had entered a "post-racial" era in which skin color and background no longer mattered, even to the royal family.

U.K. Labour Party lawmaker Clive Lewis, who like Meghan has biracial heritage, says the royal rift shows that Britain still has a problem with "structural racism."

"We can see it with Meghan Markle and the way that she's been treated in the media, we know that this is a reality of the 21st century, still," Lewis told Sky News. "After 400 years of racism you can't just overturn it overnight."

Frederick W. Gooding, an

assistant professor of African American studies at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, said it would be "disingenuous" to claim race had not been a factor in Meghan's treatment.

"She was always going to be an outsider," he said. "There was always going to be this barrier because of her race."

From the start, some in the media wrote about Meghan using racially loaded terms. One tabloid columnist referred to her "exotic" DNA. A Daily Mail headline described her Los Angeles roots as "(almost) straight outta

Compton" and claimed she came from a "gang-scarred" neighborhood. A TV host described Meghan as "uppity."

Meghan was criticized for everything from eating avocados—which the Daily Mail claimed fuel "human rights abuses, drought and murder"—to wearing dark nail polish, apparently an etiquette faux pas.

Morgan Jerkins, a senior editor at Zora, a Medium.com site for women of color, said that because Meghan was "an outsider, culturally, racially, and socioeconomically, she has been the royal family's scapegoat."

Priyanka Chopra Jonas joining Amazon's spy series 'Citadel'

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Priyanka Chopra Jonas will star opposite Richard Madden in the U.S. edition of "Citadel," a drama series to be produced in conjunction with programs from several other countries.

"The idea is to create a truly global, action-packed spy series," Amazon Studios chief Jennifer Salke said. "It's a totally innovative, multifaceted international approach to storytelling, and we can't wait to tell you more as it comes together."

Local-language productions are being done in Italy and India, with another announced Tuesday in Mexico. Amazon called the U.S. version the "mothership" of the project, with production set to begin this summer.

Film star Chopra Jonas was in the ABC TV series "Quantico." Madden starred in the award-winning BBC and Netflix series "Bodyguard."

The other "Citadel" productions will "enhance the experience of engaging with the show," Salke said. Further details and release dates were not announced.



Priyanka Chopra, left, and Nick Jonas arrive at the 77th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Also announced by the streaming service during its presentation at a TV critics meeting:

—Meagan Good is among the stars of an upcoming Amazon comedy from "Girls Trip" creator Tracy Oliver.

The untitled, half-hour series revolves around four Afri-

can American college friends in pursuit of their dreams, the streaming service said.

Good ("Star," "Think Like a Man") plays the "stylish, sunny" Camille, who teaches an anthropology course on sex and love at Columbia University. Also starring are Grace Byers ("Empire"), Jer-

rie Johnson ("Good Trouble") and Shoniqua Shandai ("I Am the Night").

Byers plays trust-fund baby and fashion designer Quinn; Shandai portrays aspiring singer Angie and Johnson plays Tye, described as "an alpha fierce, queer successful app developer."

Dutch YouTube star Nikkie de Jager says she is transgender

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Dutch YouTube celebrity Nikkie de Jager, whose makeup advice channel NikkieTutorials has millions of followers around the world, has come out as transgender, saying she took the decision to share her story after being blackmailed.

"When I was younger I was born in the wrong body which means that I am transgender," she said. By Tuesday afternoon, the video posted late Monday had been viewed more than 16.5 million times.

"Oh my God, this feels so liberating, you have no idea," she said in the video. "For 11 years that I've had my channel this has been with me, and I always wanted to share this with you, but I cannot believe that after today the world will know."

De Jager said she'd always planned to share the information with her followers, but never found the right time. In

the end, blackmailers forced her hand.

"I have been blackmailed by people that wanted to leak my story to the press, and at first it was frightening," she said. "It was frightening to know that there are people out there that are so evil that they can't respect someone's true identity. It is vile and it is gross."

In the video, she revealed that she had always felt like a girl, began wearing dresses when she was age 7 or 8, and started taking hormones at around age 14. By 19-years-old, she said she had made the "full transition" to being a woman, she said.

"Today's the day. I am free and I get to be me, finally," she said. "Please know that this doesn't change anything about me."

In a post on Instagram Tuesday, she thanked her followers for the "incredible amount of love and support" she had received since posting the video.

Billie Eilish to sing theme song for 25th James Bond film

NEW YORK (AP)—Breakthrough singer Billie Eilish is set to sing the theme song for the upcoming James Bond

film, becoming the youngest artist to write and record a song for the iconic film franchise.

Eilish, who turned 18 in De-

cember, recorded the song for the 25th Bond film, "No Time to Die," which debuts in U.S. theaters on April 10. She wrote

the song with her brother Finneas; the two created her entire debut album together.

The untitled new song does not have a release date.

"It feels crazy to be a part of this in every way. To be able to score the theme song to a film that is part of such a legendary series



is a huge honor," Eilish said in a statement Tuesday. "James Bond is the coolest film franchise ever to exist. I'm still in shock."

Eilish is riding high off her successful 2019 debut album, "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?," which featured the No. 1 hit "Bad Guy." She's competing for

six Grammy Awards at this month's show, including the top four prizes: album, song and record of the year, and best new artist. She was 17 when she earned those four top nominations, making her the youngest artist in Grammy history to achieve the feat.

"When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" was Spotify's most-streamed album of 2019.

Jury selection at Weinstein's rape trial trudges forward

NEW YORK (AP)—A sixth day of jury selection at Harvey Weinstein's New York City rape trial ended Tuesday after another batch of prospective jurors told a judge that they had already made up their minds about the movie mogul.

More than 30 people of 110 screened in a Manhattan

courtroom said they couldn't be fair if asked to sit on a trial expected to last at least six weeks and feature testimony from six women who say there were victimized by Weinstein. It wasn't disclosed how many of those claiming bias were dismissed.

On Monday, supermodel Gigi Hadid caused a stir by

emerging as a potential juror, telling the judge she had met Weinstein but could be impartial. The scene was more mundane Tuesday, when one man said he didn't know the defendant but couldn't be fair because he had seen him several times in lower Manhattan "on the phone screaming at someone."

For 'Jeopardy' fans, Ken Jennings is the greatest

NEW YORK (AP)—Being bold paid off for new "Jeopardy!" mega-champion Ken Jennings, while it didn't for his opponents.

Jennings won his third match in the "Jeopardy!" "Greatest of all Time" contest televised on Tuesday, an event that's been a prime-time hit for ABC. He pocketed \$1 million by dispatching James Holzhauer, who won one match, and Brad Rutter, who came up empty.

The gamesmanship between the three men considered the most-accomplished and best-known in the show's modern history proved entertaining while containing all the tension of a major sporting match.

Jennings took a strong lead in the first game of Tuesday's match by borrowing a strategy popularized by Holzhauer, twice betting all of his points on a Daily Double and win-

ning. He signaled his intention by imitating the gesture of a poker player pushing all of his chips to the center of the table.

In a "Final Jeopardy" question about Greece, Jennings bet all 32,800 of his points on the clue: "This area of Greece, home to Pan, is synonymous with a rural paradise; it's a setting for Vergil's shepherd poems the 'Eclogues.' He correctly answered, "What is Arcadia?"

Cannes does 'right thing' in appointing Spike Lee to lead

PARIS (AP)—American director Spike Lee will lead the jury of this year's Cannes Film Festival, the first black person to hold the post in the event's 73-year history.

Festival organizers hope Lee will "shake things up" among the world's cinema elite at the festival which runs May 12-23. And anti-racism campaigners hope Lee's appointment wakes up the French cultural world to persistent discrimination and the damaging stereotypes it perpetuates.

Lee said he was "honored to be the first person of the African diaspora" chosen for the prestigious position.

Festival organizer Thierry

Fremaux said Lee is the first black president of any major film festival, calling the decision a "message of universality." Speaking on France's RTL radio, Fremaux said it wasn't a political decision, but noted that black artists are underrepresented in the cinema world.

Many of Lee's films have been shown at Cannes, and his "BlacKkKlansman" won a major prize at Cannes two years ago. This year's festival runs May 12-23, and the rest of the jury members will be announced in April.

"When I got the call ... I was shocked, happy, surprised and



Lee

proud all at the same time," Lee said in a letter. He said Cannes "changed the trajectory of who I became in world cinema."

Several of Lee's films first screened at Cannes, including "Do the Right Thing" in 1989.

Without explicitly mentioning Lee's career-long fight against racism or other political views, the festival said Lee's "perspective is more valuable than ever" and that "Cannes is a natural homeland and a global sounding board for those who (re)awaken minds and question our stances and fixed ideas."

Meat Loaf sues hotel, blaming negligence for disabling fall

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—Meat Loaf has filed a lawsuit against a hotel at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and organizers of a horror convention held there, blaming them for negligence when he fell from a stage while answering questions from convention goers last May.

The singer and actor, whose real name is Michael Lee Aday, and wife Deborah Lee Gillespie Aday filed the suit Monday in a state district court in Fort Worth, Texas,

against the Hyatt Corp. and Texas Nightmare Weekend LLC. The lawsuit alleges the defendants hung curtains at the back edge of the stage at the Hyatt Regency DFW hotel that hid where the stage ended, creating a "hidden hazard."

The performer incurred severe neck, collarbone and shoulder injuries that have prevented him from performing since, according to the complaint. The 72-year-old Dallas native spent 42 days hospitalized after the fall and required him to undergo phys-

ical therapy.

The Hyatt Corp. issued a statement saying that its policy was not to comment on ongoing litigation. The convention organizer did not respond immediately to a message from The Associated Press.

Meat Loaf is best known for his role in the film "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" and his 1977 record album "Bat Out of Hell," which included the hit title song, as well as "Two Out of Three Ain't Bad" and "Paradise by the Dashboard Light."

NEW FIREFIGHTER

In this photo provided by the Jersey City Mayor's Office, Bruce Springsteen hugs his son Sam Springsteen after he is sworn in as a Jersey City Firefighter at City Hall in Jersey City, N.J. on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020. Sam Springsteen was sworn in with 15 others. He was joined by his famous father and mother, Patti Scialfa, at City Hall along with Mayor Steven Fulop and other city officials. The Boss and Scialfa sat in the front row as their 25-year-old son was sworn into the newest class. "We're very proud," Bruce Springsteen told reporters at the ceremony. "We're just excited for him today." Jersey City officials say this is the fire department's 10th class since Fulop took office. More than 200 firefighters have been hired since 2013. The department now has 666 members, its largest number ever.



AP

Man disabled as a teen is haunted by parents' inaction

DEAR ABBY: When I was a junior in high school, I sustained a neck injury (at school) that damaged my spinal cord. I recovered mostly from that, but I have residual weakness in my right side and severe neck pain. I was able to work until, at 57, I had to go on disability. Because of that, my financial situation is difficult, increasingly so now that my wife will be retiring.

At the time of my injury, my parents didn't sue the school, although clearly the school was responsible. I was too young and certainly in no shape to address the situation.

A lawyer approached my parents at the time, and my physician stated my injuries would limit my long-term work abilities and drastically affect my life. My parents were aware that I would have limited work years, thus affecting my financial situation. I feel anger toward them because of their inaction regarding my injury and not suing the school.

I see them once or twice a week, and I'm wondering if I should bring this up to them now. They're in their mid-80s but are quite lively and take care of themselves. It consumes my thoughts each time I visit them, but I've said nothing. Do you think I should bring this up to them?

INJURED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR INJURED: Yes, I do. You deserve to know why

they were so apathetic in taking care of your welfare—and they should be made aware of the impact it has had on your life. It may be too late to sue the school for what happened to you, but at least you will have some answers.

DEAR ABBY: I am suffering from postpartum depression while trying to reconcile with my husband, "Derek." He had several emotional affairs during my recent pregnancy, as well as after I gave birth.

His parents attacked me about the postpartum. I was hospitalized for a week because of it, but they said it was an act. Recently, his mom texted him saying he should use my mental illness as grounds to divorce me. I texted her, asking her to stop attacking me that way. She responded, calling me a devil, saying she's always hated me. Now she's turning his entire family against me, spreading vicious lies. She even accused me of trying to sleep with my father-in-law, which Derek knows is ridiculous.

I have asked Derek to address the situation, but what else can I do? I'm no longer comfortable around his parents or sending my children to be around them. I don't want Derek to be in an awkward position, but it's not fair for me to be attacked with malicious lies because of her jealousy—especially 12 years in. Please help.

DISRESPECTED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR DISRESPECTED: You may be suffering from postpartum, but your mother-in-law appears to have more problems than you do. I don't envy you for being her target, or your husband for having to buffer you.

It might be helpful if the two of you consult a licensed mental health provider to figure out how to deal with her, if that's possible. And Derek should waste no time letting the rest of the family know that none of what his mother is saying is true.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



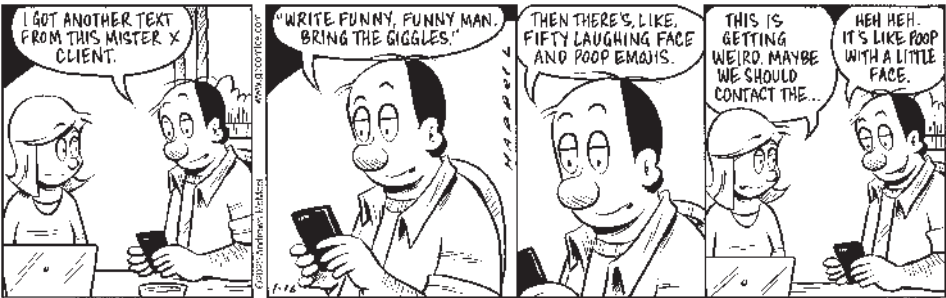
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

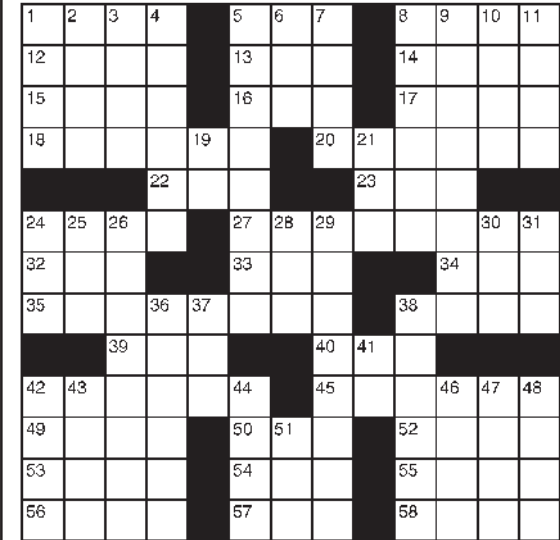
1 50-and-over org.
5 Scot's refusal
8 Boutique
12 Mr. Stravinsky
13 Under the weather
14 Syringe, for short
15 Peace-keeping org.
16 Casual shirt
17 Tennis score
18 Quake
20 "Liar Liar" star Jim
22 Vegetable peeler brand
23 Stickum
24 Vipers
27 Flew off the handle
32 Wire measure
33 Yale grad
34 Corn serving
35 Instrument in a Dixieland band

DOWN

1 "— Mis-behavin'"
2 Culture medium
3 Memory method
4 "Coming Soon" ads
5 Element No. 7
6 Pub pint
7 Power co. supply
8 Stone of "Basic Instinct"
9 Element No. 1
10 Mayberry boy
11 Shetland, for one
19 Symbol of strength
21 Turkish title
24 "Mad Men" network
25 Part of RSVP
26 Element No. 78
28 Flamenco cry
29 Element No. 22
30 Squealer
31 Decade parts (Abbr.)
36 Mountain chains
37 Pen filler
38 Candy bar nut
41 Cry of dismay
42 Popular Asian cuisine
43 Cronos
44 River deposit
46 Quarry
47 Roll call reply
48 Lays down the lawn
51 Espionage org.

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Max Joseph, 38; Richard T. Jones, 48; Debbie Allen, 70; John Carpenter, 72.

Happy Birthday: Use your imagination, and it will make it easier to expand your ideas and make a go of your plans. Be the one to take the lead; line up the people you feel have the most to offer, and turn your life into the masterpiece you envision. Make this year about development, self-awareness and discovering what brings you greater joy. Your numbers are 5, 17, 23, 27, 32, 35, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Pay attention to detail. Work alone to avoid interference. High energy and concentration will help you complete what you start. Stick to your game plan, even if someone tries to convince you to expand. Play safe and by the rules. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take precautions when dealing with unfamiliar people. Refuse to let anyone talk you into something you don't want to do. Attending a seminar or trade show will be informative. Use your brain to get what you want. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Maintain control. Discuss your ideas with someone influential. A financial investment you make will not be a safe bet. Listen and learn, but don't make a promise you'll regret. Spend more time on self-improvement and less trying to change someone. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look for an opportunity to work or travel with someone you like to be around. Refuse

to let an emotional matter ruin your day. Don't let what someone does upset you. If you aren't happy with a deal, back away. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do something entertaining. Your upbeat attitude will attract attention, giving you the platform you need to persuade others to get involved in something you plan to do. Speak up, listen to the feedback offered and set your plans in motion. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Use the information you retrieve in conversations to your benefit. A good friend will offer a new perspective regarding your lifestyle and how best to improve your current situation. Romance is on the rise and will enhance your personal life. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotional instability will surface if you try to make changes that someone opposes. If your family isn't agreeable, take off and enjoy the company of a friend or neighbor. Don't risk physical injury or ill health. Take better care of yourself. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let a minor mishap or delay get the better of you. Work overtime if you have to, but don't give up. A unique idea will help you fix whatever problem you face. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Choose a path that leads to greater happiness. A change to the way you look or how you live will boost your ego. Involvement with an international organization, government agency or institution will lead to a change of plans. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do what works best for you. Look at what you can do without, and minimize your plans to fit your budget. Remaining within your emotional, financial and legal comfort zone will ease stress. No muss, no fuss. ★★

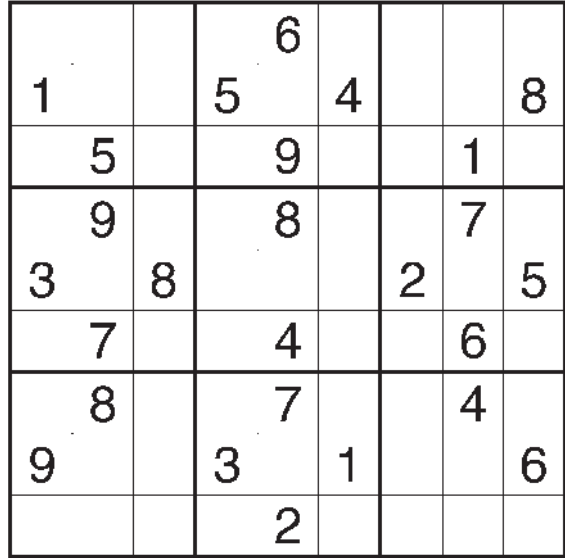
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look before you leap. Be cautious when participating in physical challenges. Protect against injury and arguments. Concentrate on budgeting your finances and organizing essential papers. A meaningful partnership will improve if you make suggestions and are willing to compromise. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll gain leverage if you take care of unfinished business. The better prepared you are, the easier it will be to convince others to see things your way. Don't let someone's bad mood ruin your day. Personal improvements look promising. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are responsive, focused and relentless. You are brave and strategic. Visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

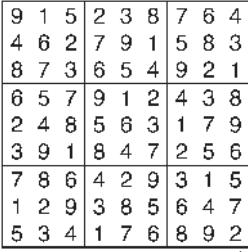


Difficulty Level ★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE Solution: 10 letters



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Yesterday's Answer: Jacket
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WHATZIT Solution: Chew it over

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• 5-Liner	\$24

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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Red Sox fire Cora for role in sign-stealing scandal



BOSTON

(AP)—Alex Cora has already been identified as a ringleader in an illegal system of sign stealing when he was with the Houston Astros.

The Red Sox didn't wait to see what punishment Major League Baseball might give him for possibly bringing a similar scheme with him to Boston.

Cora was fired by the team he led to the 2018 World Series title on Tuesday night, one day after baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said he was "an active participant" in the Astros' cheating when he was a bench coach in Houston.

Manfred mentioned Cora by name 11 times in a nine-page report, saying he "originated and executed" the scheme in which Houston used a center field camera to decode catchers' signals to pitchers, then banged on a trash can to relay the signs to batters so they would know what type of pitch was coming.

The Astros fired manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow, making that announcement an hour after Manfred suspended them for the 2020 season for their roles in the cheating scheme. Cora met Tuesday with Boston management and they issued a release saying they had "mutually agreed to part ways."

"Given the findings and the commissioner's ruling, we collectively decided that it would not be possible for Alex to effectively lead the club going forward," the team said in a statement attributed to owner John Henry, chairman Tom Werner, CEO Sam Kennedy and Cora.

The team called a news conference for Wednesday afternoon to address the scandal, which leaves it without a manager less than a month before pitchers and catchers are due to report to spring training.

Bench coach Ron Roenicke, who spent five years managing the Milwaukee Brewers, is the most experienced member of the current coaching staff; former Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek has also been mentioned as a possible replacement.

In suspending Luhnow and Hinch, Manfred said he was withholding Cora's punishment until completing a separate investigation of accusations the Red Sox stole signs in 2018. That investigation will continue; Cora and the Red Sox could both face additional penalties.

"We agreed today that parting ways was the best thing for the organization," Cora said in a statement released by the team. "I do not want to be a distraction to the Red Sox as they move forward."



New Mets manager and former Astros player Carlos Beltran also was implicated by Manfred in his report Monday—the only player mentioned. Manfred decided

that no players would be disciplined for breaking rules prohibiting the use of electronics to steal catchers' signs in 2017 after levying penalties against Boston and the

New York Yankees.

The Mets declined comment on Beltran's status.

The Los Angeles Dodgers lost the 2017 World Series to the Astros and again in 2018 to

the Red Sox.

"All clubs have been asked by Major League Baseball not to comment on today's punishment of the Houston Astros as it's inappropriate to comment

AP
In this Oct. 28, 2018, file photo, Boston Red Sox manager Alex Cora waits for the start of Game 5 of the World Series between the Red Sox and Los Angeles Dodgers in Los Angeles. Cora was fired by the Red Sox on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020, a day after baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred implicated him in the sport's sign-stealing scandal.

on discipline imposed on another club," Los Angeles said in a statement Monday night. "The Dodgers have also been asked not to comment on any wrongdoing during the 2017 World Series and will have no further comment at this time."

A member of Boston's 2007 championship club, Cora was hired in November 2017 to take over a Red Sox team that won back-to-back AL East titles in 2016-17 but failed to advance in the postseason under John Farrell.

Cora guided the team to a franchise-record 108 regular-season victories in 2018 and its fourth World Series title in 15 years. The Red Sox beat a pair of 100-win teams in the Yankees and Astros in the AL playoffs, then defeated the Dodgers in a five-game World Series to make Cora the first Puerto Rican manager to win a championship and the fifth manager to guide a team to a title in his first season.

He was rewarded by president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski with a new contract adding an extra guaranteed season in 2021, a deal that included a club option for 2022.

Dombrowski was fired in September after the Red Sox stumbled toward an 84-78 record and missed the playoffs for the first time since 2015. He was replaced this offseason by former Tampa Bay Rays executive Chaim Bloom, who will lead the search for a new manager.

"This is a sad day for us," Henry, Werner and Kennedy said in a statement. "Alex is a special person and a beloved member of the Red Sox. We are grateful for his impact on our franchise. We will miss his passion, his energy and his significant contributions to the communities of New England and Puerto Rico."

The scandal—but not the severity of the punishment—is reminiscent of the New England Patriots' sign-stealing scheme in 2007, in which the team videotaped opposing coaches to decipher their signals.

Cora's departure means 10 of the 30 major league teams will start the 2020 season with a new manager. Boston's new manager will be its fifth in 10 seasons.

Astros get the punishment, Dodgers pay the price

AJ Hinch won't be managing in the big leagues any time soon, if at all. Alex Cora joined him Tuesday in the unemployment line, and it's hard to believe anyone will ever give him another job that involves being a leader of men.

The punishments fit the crime, and for that baseball commissioner Rob Manfred deserves a pat on the back. Give another one to Astros owner Jim Crane, who did his part to clean up an increasingly smelly mess in Houston by immediately firing both his manager and general manager.

But that doesn't bring real justice. It can't.

Not to the Los Angeles Dodgers, who are now at 32 years and counting without a World Series title.

Not to Clayton Kershaw, whose postseason failings were magnified in Game 5 at Minute Maid Park when the Dodgers ace was raked for six runs and didn't make it out of the fifth inning.

And certainly not to Yu Darvish, whose reputation—and nearly his career—got trashed when he was routed

by the Astros in two games of the 2017 World Series.

Yes, the official record shows the Houston Astros are still your 2017 World Series champions and that's not going to change regardless of the outcry from Southern California.

But does anyone really believe it?

Watch the second inning of Game 3 once again and then decide. That's when Darvish was touched up for four runs and the Astros took a 2-1 lead in the series.

It was almost as if the hitters knew what was coming—which, of course, they did.

If you're still not convinced, Game 5 should be evidence enough. Like Game 3, it took place at Minute Maid Park, where the cameras were rolling, the dugout trash can was booming and the Astros' bats were blazing.

All with arguably the best pitcher in baseball since the turn of the century on the mound for the Dodgers. Kershaw didn't make it out of the fifth inning, surrendering six runs in a wild game that saw

the Dodgers score a dozen times—and still lose.

Kershaw, Darvish and the rest of the Dodgers were called chokers. Manager Dave Roberts was taken to task on social media for not handling his pitchers properly.

It turns out what really happened is the Astros cheated. Cora, their bench coach at the time, concocted a scheme to steal signs that made an already good team even better.

To make matters worse, they celebrated on the field at Dodger Stadium like they had earned every moment of it.

The bitter taste still lingers for both Dodger fans and players.

"We were close, but we did it the right way," National League MVP Cody Bellinger told ESPN before the results of MLB's investigation were released.

It didn't help that the Dodgers would make the World Series the next year, too, only to see the visiting team celebrating a championship once again at Dodger Stadium. And who was the manager jumping up and down with his players and spraying champagne with his

players for the second year in a row at Chavez Ravine?

That would be Cora.

And cheat he did as the bench coach of the Astros, setting up the system that fed sign sequences to a monitor near the dugout. Manfred's investigation put Cora at the center of it all, and the guess is he will eventually be kicked out of baseball, never to return.

So now the Astros will go down in baseball infamy for being cheaters on a level never seen before. They're not quite the Black Sox of 1919, but the damage they've done to the sport is not insignificant.

Their reputation is in tatters. There's an asterisk attached to their championship, and no way for their fans to feel good about anything from the 2017 season.

There's also no way to make things right for the Dodgers, who were the real victims in all this. Baseball isn't about to vacate a title from three years back, and you can't claim a championship you didn't win on the field anyway, even if you were cheated.

Rivalry for Packers-49ers dates back 25 years



S A N T A CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Brett Favre vs. Steve Young. Aaron Rodgers dueling with Colin Kaepernick.

The catch by Terrell Owens, electrifying returns from Desmond Howard and breathtaking runs by Kaepernick.

Few franchises have been as intertwined over the last quarter-century as the Green Bay Packers and San Francisco 49ers, with coaches getting groomed in one spot and ending up in the other, seven previous playoff meetings, and a regrettable draft decision that sent Rodgers packing for Green Bay instead of staying close to home and reviving the 49ers.

The teams that have combined for nine Super Bowl titles will meet with a spot in the championship game on the line once again when the 49ers (14-3) host the Packers (14-3) in the NFC championship game on Sunday.

No matchup has occurred as frequently in the past 25 years, with the eighth meeting this week putting Green Bay-San Francisco three games ahead of any other rivalry. In fact, the only teams to play more than eight times in the postseason in the Super Bowl era are the Rams and Cowboys, who met for the ninth time last January.

The Packers have won four of those previous seven meetings, going 4-1 with Favre at quarterback and losing both meetings with Rodgers as starter in the 2012-13 seasons when he was outdueled by Kaepernick.

It all started back in 1992 when Mike Holmgren left a job as offensive coordinator in San Francisco to take over the Packers. The man who tutored Young in both college and the pros set out to groom the untested Favre, who was acquired in a trade from Atlanta that same year.

With Favre and Holmgren at the helm, along with free agent acquisition Reggie White, the Packers set out to challenge the Cowboys and 49ers for dominance in the NFC. After getting knocked out of the 1993 and '94 playoffs by Dallas, Green Bay got its shot against San Francisco the following year and jumped all over the Niners.

Adam Walker fumbled on San Francisco's first play from scrimmage and Craig Newsome returned it for a TD and Favre followed with two quick touchdown passes as the Packers rolled to a 27-17 win that established them as true contenders—even though they lost the following week against Dallas.

The teams met again the following year when Howard returned a punt 71 yards for a TD after San Francisco's opening possession. Young was knocked out later in the first quarter with an injury and the Packers won 35-14 on the way to a Super Bowl title.

"There was a time that you could just say, 'Hey, no matter, the 49ers are a better team than Green Bay,'" Packers defensive end Sean Jones said after that game. "There was a time where they could make mistakes, and still not play their best and you knew and they knew they were going to win. Well, those days are over. At worst, we are even with them in talent. So, then you throw in mistakes and there you have it—that's the difference."

The Packers dominance of the series led to George Seifert resigning as coach and former Packers assistant Steve Mariucci taking over.

Green Bay won the first playoff matchup against Mariucci the following year as the frustration mounted in San Francisco.

"It's getting pretty obvious," Young said at the time. "We have to find a way to beat the Packers. They are the



In this Jan. 3, 1999, file photo, San Francisco 49ers' wide receiver Terrell Owens pulls in a 25-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Steve Young as Green Bay Packers' safeties Pat Terrell (40) and Darren Sharper defend late in the fourth quarter of an NFC wild card playoff game at 3COM Park in San Francisco. Owens' catch with three seconds left in the game led the 49ers to a 30-27 win. The two teams that have combined for nine Super Bowl titles will meet with a spot in the ultimate game on the line once again when the 49ers (14-3) host the Packers (14-3) in the NFC championship game on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020.

team standing in the way of all our progress."

The breakthrough came the following year thanks to one of the most memorable plays

of the series in San Francisco's only playoff win over Favre. On Jan. 3, 1999, Owens lost a fumble and dropped a potential TD pass early before

delivering late.

With 8 seconds left and the Niners trailing by four, Young stumbled dropping back from center and then threaded a 25-

yard pass between a phalanx of Packers to Owens, who somehow managed to hold onto it despite being hit by two defenders.

"I don't know where I would be if it weren't for that play, to be honest," Owens said years later. "If you take that one catch, that one touchdown away from me, I don't know where I would be. It was a play that really catapulted my career."

Favre won his final playoff meeting against the Niners three years later, and the next really meaningful link between the franchises came in 2005 when San Francisco drafted Alex Smith with the No. 1 overall pick instead of local boy Rodgers.

Rodgers fell to No. 24, only adding fuel to his motivation.

"Not as disappointed as the 49ers will be that they didn't draft me," Rodgers said at the draft about his disappointment at being passed over by San Francisco.

That proved prophetic as Rodgers and former Niners offensive coordinator Mike McCarthy built a powerhouse that won the Super Bowl following the 2010 season and then went 15-1 the next year before losing to the Giants one game before a potential showdown with San Francisco.

The teams finally met again in the playoffs the following two seasons, with Kaepernick running for a quarterback-record 181 yards and two scores and throwing for 263 yards and two TDs in a 45-31 San Francisco win that ushered in a new era of dual-threat quarterbacks.

Kaepernick braved the cold of Green Bay the following year to lead a late winning drive that knocked the Packers out again.

But San Francisco soon fell off from there and hadn't been back to the playoffs again until this season, when once again a familiar foe is in the way.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Titans safety Kenny Vaccaro listened to how coach Mike Vrabel praised his performance in Tennessee's wild-card win with the hint of a smile.

"I know how Vrabel is," Vaccaro said. "He's tough. He wants you to be physical, gritty, grindy, and he just likes guys that are going to hit. I was hitting people like I've always hit people. I appreciate the compliment because he doesn't really give out too many."

No, the second-year head coach doesn't waste much time with praise.

That's not why the Titans fired Mike Mularkey two years ago after losing in the

Titans' gamble hiring Vrabel as coach close to paying off

divisional round of the playoffs, preferring to gamble on hiring a coach who could push them to compete for championships. They chose Vrabel as a first-time head coach, and the former 14-year linebacker with three Super Bowl rings has the Titans a win away from the franchise's second Super Bowl berth and first since the 1999 season.

Vrabel's message since mid-April has been pushing the Titans to find a way to go from good to great after three straight 9-7 seasons. Tennessee went 9-7 again during the regular season, but Vrabel isn't ready to grade his

team yet, not before the AFC championship game Sunday at Kansas City (13-4). It will be the Titans' first time playing for the conference title since the 2002 season.

"Well, I think that we have certainly improved," Vrabel said. "I think we've made progress. Something that we focused on a while back is just trying to continue to improve each and every week. So, how close we are, I don't know that. I know that we're going to do what we've done for a long time, and what we know is to prepare to try to go in and play with confidence and execute."

That focus on improve-

ment has endeared him to the Titans. He has a hands-on approach whether he's banging away at a football being carried by Derrick Henry during a running back drill or wearing a blocking pad to work on technique with linebackers and defensive linemen. Four-time Pro Bowl defensive lineman Jurrell Casey loves how Vrabel and all his coaches are involved and detail-oriented at practice.

But it's Vrabel's mindset that Casey appreciates most.

"He doesn't care about the wins, he don't care about none of that that happened," Casey said. "He's excited for that moment. But he's onto

the next. His mindset is always onto the next. 'We can cherish the moments for a bit, but let's get back to the grind. I don't care about the excuses you have. You're sore, whatever. You get back in this building and get back to it.'"

Vrabel dealt with numerous injuries during his first season, including starting quarterback Marcus Mariota missing the regular-season finale, which the Titans lost with a playoff berth on the line.

His biggest challenge came in mid-October this season. The Titans had scored only one touchdown in a 10-quarter stretch capped by a 16-0

loss at Denver that dropped Tennessee to 2-4. At that point, Vrabel benched Mariota for veteran Ryan Tannehill, who had been acquired in a trade with Miami to upgrade the backup position.

The Titans (11-7) are 9-3 since then, including winning their last three on the road. They clinched the AFC's No. 6 seed in the regular-season finale against AFC South champ Houston, beat the defending Super Bowl champion Patriots in New England and then knocked off the top-seeded Ravens in Baltimore. Vrabel is the Titans' first coach to win his first two postseason games since Jeff Fisher after the 1999 season.

Grizzlies bring down Rockets to extend win streak



MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Early this season, the young Memphis Grizzlies were still learning how to close out games—a shortfall the team has overcome during its longest winning streak in more than three years.

The Grizzlies outscored the Houston Rockets 36-27 in the fourth quarter Tuesday night as Memphis pulled away for a 121-110 victory, stretching the Grizzlies' winning streak to six games—their longest since December 2016.

Rookie guard Ja Morant had 26 points and eight assists, and Dillon Brooks scored 24 to lead Memphis. Jonas Valanciunas added 19 points and Jaren Jackson Jr. had 15 despite going 6 of 16 from the floor.

Morant missed only one of his 11 shots, becoming the first rookie in NBA history to score at least 25 points while handing out eight or more assists and shooting 90% or better from the field.

"Early on, we would get stagnant, and we would run the same thing over and over," Brooks said of the team's fourth-quarter problems earlier in the season. "Now, we're getting more diversity with Ja getting to the middle and making great plays and great decisions."

Brooks also was responsible for guarding Rockets star James Harden, the NBA's leading scorer. Harden perhaps had more scoring duties against Memphis as backcourt mate Russell Westbrook sat out to rest on the opening night of a back-to-back. Harden scored 41 points, his fifth straight game against the Grizzlies surpassing 40. But



he shot 13 of 37, including 5 of 19 from 3-point range.

That included missing all seven shots in the fourth quarter as Memphis pulled away in the final eight minutes.

"There were little things," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said. "Most importantly, we couldn't keep the Grizzlies in front of us. They finished very well at the rim on a lot of fast-break possessions. We didn't do enough to stop them."

Clippers 128, Cavaliers 103

In Los Angeles, Kawhi Leon-

ard scored a season-high 43 points in three quarters as the Clippers routed the Cavaliers.

According to Sportradar, it was only the second time since 1996 a Clippers player scored at least 40 points in the first three quarters. Lou Williams had 40 against Golden State in a 2018 game.

Leonard had 14 points in the second quarter and set a career high for 3s in one period with four as the Clippers broke open the game. The All-Star forward played 29 minutes and was 14 of 22 from the floor and 6 of 10 from beyond the arc. He was two points

from tying his regular-season career high.

Williams added 24 points for the Clippers, who played again without injured star Paul George. They have won five of six and had six scorers in double figures.

Collin Sexton led Cleveland with 25 points and Cedi Osman added 21. Rookie guard Darius Garland, the fifth overall pick in last June's draft, had 14 points and a career-high 10 assists for his first double-double.

Osman's 3-pointer gave the Cavs a 34-33 lead with 9:58 remaining in the second

quarter before Los Angeles outscored them 33-16 the remainder of the half.

Mavericks 124, Warriors 97

In San Francisco, Dwight Powell scored 21 points and was perfect from the floor in his return to the Bay Area after starring at Stanford, and the Dallas Mavericks beat the Golden State Warriors.

Luka Doncic added 20 points and eight rebounds as the Mavericks won their fourth straight against the Warriors—three in a row on their home floor. Powell shot 9 for 9 and grabbed six rebounds.

Jordan Poole came off the bench to score 17 points for Golden State. Fellow reserve Eric Paschall added 16, while D'Angelo Russell and Glenn Robinson III had 13 apiece. The Warriors lost their eighth consecutive game and fourth straight at Chase Center.

And injury-plagued Golden State lost another player when guard Jacob Evans III was taken to a hospital to be evaluated for a head injury. He was helped off the court with 4:38 left in the first half after getting hit with an elbow by Powell as they fought for a rebound.

The Warriors trailed by as many as 28, then used a 13-0 run in the third quarter to make things interesting.

Mavericks star Kristaps Porzingis, who had been listed as questionable, sat out an eighth straight game. He has been feeling ill and is still dealing with soreness in his

right knee. He could be ready in time to face the Kings in Sacramento on Wednesday.

Jazz 118, Nets 107

In New York, Joe Ingles matched his career high with 27 points, Rudy Gobert had 22 points and 18 rebounds, and Utah ran its winning streak to 10 games by beating Brooklyn.

Donovan Mitchell returned from a one-game absence with an illness to score 25 points—14 in the fourth quarter—and Bojan Bogdanovic had 18 for the Jazz, who opened a 20-point lead and turned back every attempt by the Nets to make it close.

Kyrie Irving had 32 points and a season-high 11 assists for Brooklyn in his second game back from a shoulder injury.

Utah has won 15 of 16.

Bucks 128, Knicks 102

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo needed only 21 minutes on the court to score 37 points and lead the Bucks past New York.

Antetokounmpo did not play in the fourth quarter after the Bucks built a 32-point lead entering the final period on the way to sweeping the three-game season series with the Knicks.

Khris Middleton added 17 points and Ersan Ilyasova had 14 points and seven rebounds for Milwaukee, which led by as many as 35 and improved its record to an NBA-best 36-6.

Julius Randle had 25 points and 15 rebounds to pace the Knicks (11-30), and rookie R.J. Barrett added 22 points. Bobby Portis had 20 off the bench.

Hawks 123, Suns 110

In Atlanta, Trae Young scored 21 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter and the Hawks pulled away late to beat Phoenix.

It was Young's 20th game with at least 30 points this season. He got help from backcourt partner Kevin Huerter, who scored 23 points and set career highs with 15 rebounds and eight assists. John Collins added 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Hawks, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

Devin Booker led the Suns with 39 points before he was ejected for his second technical foul following his dunk with less than two minutes remaining.

Tougher fines, stroke penalties for slow players

LOS ANGELES—PGA Tour players guilty of slow play will face tougher fines and more frequent stroke penalties under tough new rules due to take effect in April, tour officials said on Tuesday.

A PGA Tour statement said maximum fines for slow play will be increased tenfold from their current level while players taking too long to play shots will be placed on an observation list.

"You talk to players, read articles, hear from fans," PGA Tour chief of operations Tyler Dennis said.

"What gets people, what gnaws at them, are these individual habits that people have. It's seen as bad etiquette, it's seen as a distraction, and we're targeting

those individual moments to help their fellow competitors and assist our media partners with presentation."

Under the new slow play policy, data from the PGA Tour's Shotlink database will be analysed to identify players guilty of slow play.

Players will be placed on the tour's observation list and subjected to warnings if they exceed 60 seconds to play a shot. A second breach of the time limit in a tournament will result in a one-stroke penalty.

The observation list however will not be made public. Players will be notified if they are on the list on a week-to-week basis.

Any player in a tournament—even if they are not on the observation list—will

also be penalised if they are found to take longer than 120 seconds to play a single shot without good reason.

Players will face a one-shot penalty for the second time breach in a tournament—rather than a round—while the maximum fine for cumulative bad times over a season has been raised to \$50,000 from the current level of \$5,000.

"We felt we needed to ratchet up the deterrence," Dennis said.

"We've significantly upped the ante on stroke penalties. Currently it's by the round; now it's going to be over the entire tournament.

"In the past, two bad times in a round meant a penalty, and that has happened very infrequently. Now we are changing that to a tourna-

ment, so a second bad time in a tournament would result in a penalty stroke."

The new regulations will go into effect at the RBC Heritage in South Carolina in April.

Anger over slow play has simmered amongst professionals for years, but came to a head last August after criticism of Bryson DeChambeau, who was recorded taking two minutes and 20 seconds to line up an eight-foot putt.

World No. 1 Brooks Koepka confronted DeChambeau over his slow play, while Rory McIlroy later called for more frequent stroke penalties.

"That will stamp it out right away," McIlroy said. "We are not children that need to be told five or six times what to do."

Smoke haze again forces delay in Aussie Open qualifying

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Australian Open officials delayed the start of play by two hours Wednesday on the second day of qualifying until smoke from regional wild fires cleared.

Smoke and hazy conditions at Melbourne Park on Tuesday affected the opening day's play with organizers criticized for allowing qualifying matches to proceed.

A number of players complained, including Bernard Tomic, who sought medical treatment during his first-round loss when he struggled to breathe. Dalila Jakupovic feared she would pass out before retiring from her match when she collapsed to her knees with a coughing spell.

On Wednesday, Canadian qualifier Brayden Schnur said Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal were "selfish" and more concerned about their legacies, saying it's time the pair stepped up and protested against playing conditions during qualifying.

The 103rd-ranked player, who is seeded third in the qualifying tournament, was critical of officials after his first-round win over Sebastian Ofner, which took more than two hours in the hazy



AP
Bernard Tomic of Australia receives medical attention in his match against Denis Kudla of the U.S. during 2020 Australian Open qualifying at Melbourne Park on January 14, 2020.

bushfire smoke over the next three weeks is also being called into question.

Play in qualifying was suspended for a second time on Wednesday: this time for rain.

The eight indoor courts in the National Tennis Centre at the south-east corner of the site have been seen as a potential escape route in the case of consistently polluted conditions. But when Great Britain's Jay Clarke tried to warm up for his match in the NTC, he found the courts unusable after smoke found its way in through the ventilation system.

"There was talk of it [the qualifying matches] moving indoors," said Clarke, who later suffered a hip injury and lost in three sets. "But we actually went over to the NTC and it was worse. They have got permanent vents open so when it [the smoke] got in it wasn't able to get out. No players were practising indoors over there, and I ended up warming up outdoors."

conditions that blanketed Melbourne Park on Wednesday.

He said it was incumbent upon the biggest names in the sport to be the voice for lesser-known players.

"It's got to come from the top guys — Roger and Rafa are a little bit selfish in thinking about themselves and their careers," Schnur said.

"Because they're near the end and all they're thinking about is their legacy and they're not thinking about the sport itself and trying to do what's good for the sport. So those guys need to step up."

Schnur battled conditions, which he described as like smoking a cigarette.

"You feel super dryness in

your throat," he said. "That's 100% not normal and players who have asthma are at a huge disadvantage right now."

The Australian Open begins Monday.

Sharapova leaves match

On a chaotic day in air conditions rated "the worst in the world", Maria Sharapova called off her exhibition match

after less than two sets.

Eugenie Bouchard left the court after struggling to breathe and world No. 5 five Elina Svitolina asked the authorities "why do we have to wait for something bad to happen" before they take action.

And with just five days to go until the start of the main event it has emerged that Tennis Australia's contingency plan for dealing with more

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will conduct a tryout on Jan. 21 from 7pm to 9pm to select the 20 players that will suit up for the squad. Coaches will pick two goal keepers and 18 field players. Nine field players must be born between 1975 and 1984 and the other nine must be born in 1974 or earlier.

Players trying out should have participated in the 2019 Men's M-League, either in Division A or B, or have played in the 8x8 Masters Winter League.

Meanwhile, the tryout for the NMI Women's Masters

Team took place last Thursday and the selection will be announced once they are finalized.

The Northern Marianas Masters Friendly Tournament 2020 is part of NMIFA's program in developing and promoting the sport in the community. It is also a shot in the arm for sports tourism in the CNMI. It's the second of its kind hosted at the NMI Soccer Training Center and will come less than a year after the successful staging of the Marianas Invitational Football Tournament in August.

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team ruled last year's competition, which also fea-

tured two off-island teams—Beijing Elite Core Club and Beijing 97 United Football Club—and the M-League All-Stars.

The CNMI U18 topped the event after earning a 3-0-0 win-draw-loss mark, while Beijing Elite Core Club came in at second with its 2-0-1 slate. M-League All-Stars and Beijing 97 United Football Club finished the round-robin contest with 1-0-2 and 0-0-3 marks, respectively.

Century Tours coordinated the participation of the two Beijing-based teams and is back this year to help NMIFA set up the Masters competition.

SHIRLEY'S

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hot shooting from the 3-point area after firing eight triples. Ed Diaz. Ed Diaz and Jack Aranda drilled two each from beyond the arc, while Freddie Pelisamen made one.

Jugos' three triples and two from Diaz in the second

quarter helped Shirley's grab the lead at halftime, 35-32. Shirley's kept the upper hand in the third period with Aranda this time stepping up, scoring 8 markers for their 50-46 advantage.

Shirley's went on to widen the gap in the final canto, as Jugos, after being held scoreless in the third, knocked in four triples to finish off the Hoopaholics.

Meanwhile, against AK Toyota, Shirley's jumped to a 25-13 lead and never looked back, leaning on its balance offense all through the match for the lopsided win.

Five players delivered double figures for Shirley's, including Max Muna, who had 14 markers.

Saturday Game

Shirley's 83—Muna 14, Duenas 10, Sablan 10, Pelisamen 10, Jugos 10, Palma 6, Flores 6, Aranda 5, Diaz 4, Mendiola 4, Martin 3.

AK Toyota 56—Ferrer 25, Boswell 12, Camacho 8, Brennan 6, Sekool 5, Jones 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-13, 45-22, 68-29, 83-56.

Sunday's Game

Shirley's 84—Jugos 28, Aranda 17, Diaz 15, Sablan 9, Duenas 8, Pelisamen 4, Mendiola 3, Flores 2.

Hoopaholics 61—Itibus 16, Deleon Guerrero 12, Fitial 7, Aughenbaugh 7, Manibusan 5, Cadiang 5, Tenorio 4, Cabrera 4.

Scoring by quarter: 10-17, 35-32, 50-46, 84-61.

TSUNAMI

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Top 3 finish with Tsunami Saipan A placing second and Tsunami Saipan B getting third place.

Jinnosuke Suzuki, Joseph Zhang, Isaiah Aleksenko, and Kouki Watanabe combined for 2:00.17 to rank runner-up behind Manhoben (1:50.47), while Juhn Tenorio, Andrew Nunez, Kevin Guerrero, and Shuman Barman checked in at 2:12.37 to complete the podium finish.

Meanwhile, Kimura said the club is pleased with the swimmers' results in the meet

that featured 112 swimmers. Tsunami Saipan sent 19 swimmers to the competition with

Tenorio and Asaka Litulumar serving as captain and vice captain, respectively.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shoko Litulumar competes in the 200m breaststroke event in the All Island Invitational Long Course Meet at the Hagatna Pool in Guam early this month.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura, front row second left, joins the club's swimmers based on Saipan and Guam for a group photo at the conclusion of the All Island Invitational Long Course Meet at the Hagatna Pool in Guam early this month.

UFO TEAM STANDINGS

Open Division

Blue Eagle	4	0
Eats Easy	5	1
Islander	3	1
Hoopaholics	3	2
Shirley's	3	3
RNV	2	3
Lakay	1	3
AK Toyota	1	4
Saipan Vegas	1	3
Pacific Island Club	0	3



Red Sox fire
Cora for role in
sign-stealing
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Rivalry for
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Back-to-back for Shirley's

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's Coffee Shop's guns were blazing over the weekend, as it out-gunned its opponents to notch a pair of wins in the Open Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League.

Shirley's first ripped Atkins Kroll Toyota, 83-56, last Saturday, and then returned to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Sunday to whip the Hoopaholics, 84-61. With its back-to-back wins, Shirley's improved its record to 3-3 and is still in contention for a playoff berth. Only the Top 4 teams after the round-robin play in



Tsunami Saipan swimmers lead way in relay



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Julia Jinang gets ready at the starting block for the 50m free-style race in the All Island Invitational Long Course Meet at the Hagatna Pool in Guam early this month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan capped its notable performance in the All Island Invitational Long Course Meet in Guam early this month with a Top 3 finish in two relay races.



In the girls 4x50m free-style race at the Hagatna Pool, the quartet of Julia Jinang, Sari Barman, Shoko Litulumar, and Aoi Braxton swam for Tsunami Saipan

A and timed in at 2:27.66 to rule the event. They won over Manhoben (2:30.33), Tsunami Saipan B (2:32.41) and Typhoons (3:31.66). Nagisa Litulumar, Michelle Chen, Ayumi Obligation, and Asaka Litulumar raced for Tsunami Saipan B.

In the boys 4x50m free-style, the Hiro Kimura-coaches club had another

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

the 10-squad field will advance to the playoffs and Shirley's is in fifth place with still three games left in its schedule.

The Blue Eagle leads the division with its unbeaten mark (4-0), followed by Eats Easy (5-1), Islander Rent A Car (3-1), Hoopaholics (3-2), RNV (2-3),

Shirley's Coffee Shop's Greg Sablan, drives against Atkins Kroll's John Sekool, left, and Clark Boswell during the third quarter of their game in the Open Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Lakay (1-3), AK Toyota (1-4), Saipan Vegas (1-3), and Pacific Islands Club (0-3).

Shirley's handed the Hoopaholics its second straight

loss after the former's gunners waxed hot from downtown. Shirley's made 13 triples in last Sunday's match to bounce back from a 10-17 deficit in

the first quarter.

John Jugos led Shirley's

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NMIFA to hold Masters friendly tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will be hosting the Northern Marianas Masters Friendly Tournament 2020 next month at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The event will feature the Saipan Master All-Stars and the NMI Women's Masters Team and the visiting Guizhou Women's Football Team and Tianjin Shengde Men's Football Team. Games will be played on Feb. 9 and 10.

Saipan Master All-Stars

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI U18 and Beijing Elite Core Club players battle for the ball during their game in the Marianas Invitational Football Tournament held in August last year at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.